Visitor Activities at Lick Observatory

- Pack a picnic[1] and escape the urban environment to fresh mountain air. Enjoy the natural setting and views of Santa Clara ('Silicon') Valley and San Francisco Bay from an elevation of 4200 feet.
- View exhibits explaining how Planets beyond our Solar System are detected, how Supernovae tell us about the evolution of the Universe, how we discern the nature of galaxies and black holes...
- At the Gift Shop, check out Lick Observatory apparel, souvenirs, astronomical photos, posters, educational toys and other astronomy-related goodies.
- Enter the dome housing the Great Lick Refractor — until 1897, the largest telescope of its kind. Enjoy a short talk about Lick history (no charge). Tours begin at the Gift Shop, on each half hour, starting at 12:30 pm, continuing until 4:30 pm.
- Stroll to the visitor gallery of the Shane Reflector — from 1959 to 1973, the World's second-largest telescope. Displays explain the installation and how the telescope is used to discover extrasolar planets.
- Enquire about **public night-time observing opportunities** via the *Summer Visitors Program* and *Music Of The Spheres* concert series as well as joining the *Friends Of Lick Observatory* and other special programs promoting or commemorating specific events.

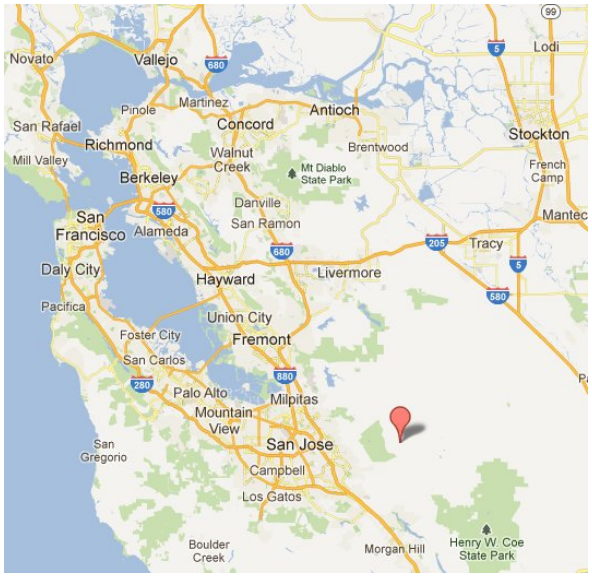
Lick Observatory Appreciates Your Cooperation

- **Please do not visit out of hours**. The Observatory relies upon minimizing light pollution. At night, access is restricted. Gates automatically lock. Parking on Mt Hamilton Rd/San Antonio Valley Rd (Route 130) is prohibited, except in emergencies.
- **Please minimize disturbance** by respecting traffic, parking and other notices, preventing fires and abating noise and litter.

[1]There are no food facilities (except vending machines) at the summit of Mt Hamilton.

Driving Directions To Lick Observatory

Lick Observatory is located at the summit of Mount Hamilton in the Diablo Range, East of San Jose. **There are no automotive or gasoline services on Mount Hamilton.**



Map data ©2012 Google

From the West (I-101, I-280, I-680): Take Alum Rock Ave exit (East). From Alum Rock Ave, take Mt Hamilton Rd (California Route 130). Allow 1 hour (25 miles) from Alum Rock Ave.

From the East: Take **I-580 (West)** to **I-680 (South)**. Then follow the directions above. Alternatively, **from I-5**, take Patterson exit (West). Turn North-West onto Puerto del Canyon Rd (California Route 130). At 'The Junction bar & grill', turn South onto San Antonio Valley Rd (California Route 130). Allow 2 hours (50 miles) from Patterson.

Version: 2012-10-05 (LaTeX) Image credits: Lotus Baker.

University of California Observatories

Lick Observatory

Mount Hamilton, California

Discovering & Sharing the Mysteries of the Universe from atop Mount Hamilton

Lick Observatory Visitor Center

Memorial Day – Labor Day:	Daily, Noon – 5 pm
Otherwise:	Thu–Sun, Noon – 5 pm
Telephone:	408-274-5061
Internet:	www.ucolick.org/public
Facebook:	Lick Observatory, University of California

Free Admission Free Parking

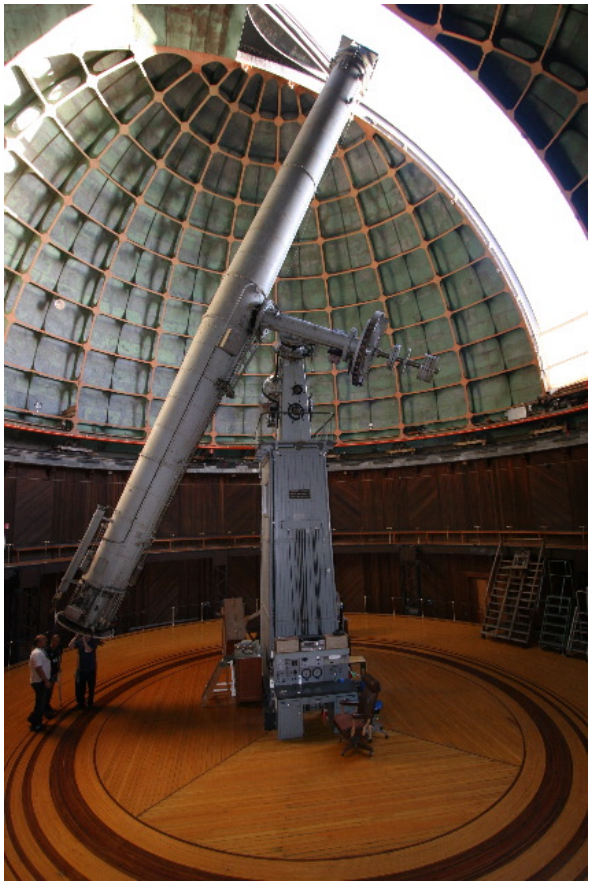
AAA GEM designation: *A "must-see"... of exceptional interest and quality*

About Lick Observatory

The World's first permanently equippeded mountaintop astronomical observatory, Lick Observatory was America's first 'Big Science' endeavor and demonstrated the feasibility of sustained observations from an elevated site, setting the standard for subsequent research observatories. The pervasive, pioneering influence and the contributions of Lick Observatory are acknowledged by astronomers worldwide.

Begun in 1876 as part of the legacy of wealthy California property magnate, James Lick and ultimately becoming his mausoleum, this historic observatory has been part of the University of California (UC) since it opened in 1888. Serving the University's ten campuses, affiliated national laboratories and over 180,000 students, this world-class research institute, with a history of innovative achievements, continues to contribute to enormous advances in astronomy and leads the development of new instruments and techniques, as well as being an active center for teaching and public outreach.

Lick Observatory is part of a larger UC entity, the University of California Observatories/Lick Observatory (UCO/Lick), a Multi-Campus Research Unit headquartered at UC Santa Cruz (UCSC). In addition to operating Lick Observatory, UCO/Lick is a managing partner of W. M. Keck Observatory in Hawai'i, supports the Infrared Imaging Detector Laboratory at UCLA and works closely with the Center for Adaptive Optics at UCSC. The UCSC headquarters also houses extensive technical facilities for the development of astronomical instrumentation.



- The Great Lick Refractor with a 36 in (0.9 m) aperture was the largest telescope of its kind when the observatory opened.

"A powerful telescope, superior to and more powerful than any... a suitable observatory... promoting science."

— James Lick, Deed of Trust (1874)

Lick Observatory Facilities

Lick Observatory hosts ten telescopes, plus other experiments. These have kept UC astronomers at the forefront of research, enabling contributions to virtually every area of optical and infrared astronomy.

- The Observatory's Main Building (designed in Italian Renaissance style by S. E. Todd) hosts a Visitor Center, the Great Lick Refractor and exhibits, the Lick Observatory Historical Collections Project (preserving artifacts pertaining to the Observatory's scientific life) and the Nickel 40 in (1 m) Reflector — a 'workhorse' research and training telescope for UC astronomers.
- The most modern telescope on Mount Hamilton is the purpose-built 94 in (2.4 m) Automated Planet Finder (APF). A reflecting telescope, dedicated to the burgeoning field of *extra-solar planets*.
- The Katzman Automatic Imaging Telescope (KAIT) is a 30 in (0.76 m) reflecting telescope, dedicated to the detection and study of tranisent phenomena (e.g. *Supernovae* and understanding the so-called *Dark Energy* accelerating the expansion of the Universe).
- The largest telescope on Mount Hamilton is the Shane 120 in (3 m) Reflector, second only to the Hale telescope of Palomar Observatory among the World's largest telescopes when it became operational in 1960. In operation every clear night of the year (except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day), the telescope is used by UC astronomers for *projects ranging from our Solar System to distant galaxies*.
- The Crossley 36 in (0.9 m) Reflector was a prescient design when completed in 1879. In 1895, it was relocated to Mount Hamilton from Yorkshire, UK where it subsequently contributed to revolutionary ideas of *Cosmology and the Big Bang*.
- Completed in 1936, the Tauchmann Reflector, with an aperture of 22 in (0.56 m) was the World's largest amateur-built telescope.
- Mount Hamilton hosts a NASA Cameras for Allsky Meteor Surveillance (CAMS) station.