

Daily Visitor Activities

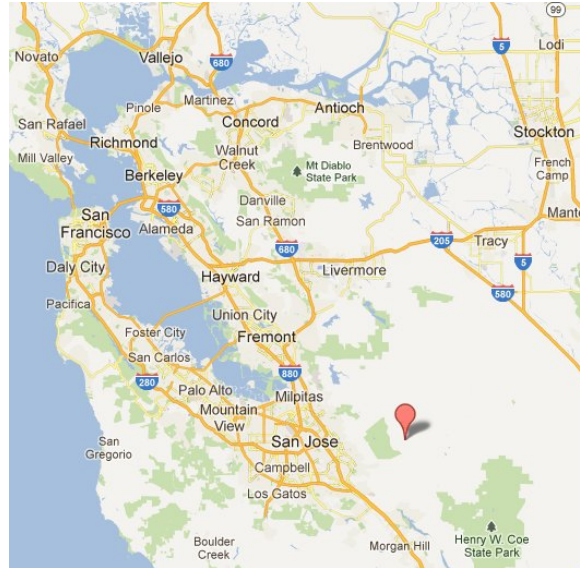
- Pack a picnic, escape the city to fresh mountain air. At 4,200 feet, with Santa Clara ('Silicon') Valley and San Francisco Bay at your feet, Mount Hamilton offers the best views in the Bay Area.
- Stroll through the marble-halled Visitors' Center, with exhibits explaining Lick research. Learn how we find planets beyond our solar system, how exploding stars teach us about the evolution of the universe, how we discern the nature of galaxies and black holes, and how new technologies are used to undo the blurring effects of Earth's atmosphere.
- Get an awe-inspiring close-up look at the Great Lick Refractor, one of history's most notable, and notably beautiful, telescopes; the telescope is shown to visitors hourly from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm, in the Visitors' Center (no advance registration required).
- Learn about Lick's rich past from interpretive exhibits of historical artifacts, and about the work of the Lick Observatory Historical Collections Project (collections.ucolick.org).
- Check out Lick Observatory apparel, souvenirs, astronomical photos, posters, educational toys and other astronomy-related goodies in the Gift Shop.
- Visit the gallery of the Shane Reflector to see the telescope and learn about its activities.

Before visiting, please be aware that:

- There are no food services at the observatory beyond vending machine snacks and soft drinks.
- There are no gasoline or automotive services on Mount Hamilton.
- In winter, snow occasionally closes Mount Hamilton road. Check for road closures.
- Please respect traffic, parking, and other notices, prevent fire, and abate noise and litter.
- **Please do not visit out of hours** when, to minimize light pollution, access is restricted and gates lock automatically.

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 gasoline or automotive 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 Mount Hamilton Rd (California Route 130). Allow 1 hour 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 from Patterson.

2014-11-22. Image credits: Mary Lea Shane Archives; Lotus Baker.



University of California Observatories

Lick Observatory

Located east of San Jose on the summit of 4,200-foot Mount Hamilton, this renowned astronomical observatory, with its sweeping views of the San Francisco Bay Area, is open to the public free of charge. Visitors are welcome from noon to 5 pm daily during the summer months and Thursday-Sunday in other seasons.

Lick Observatory Visitors' Center

Year-round: Thu–Sun, Noon–5 pm*
Phone: 408-274-5061
Website: www.ucolick.org/public
Facebook: Lick Observatory

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

*Also selected holidays & events. For latest information visit:
mthamilton.ucolick.org/GiftShop/

About Lick Observatory

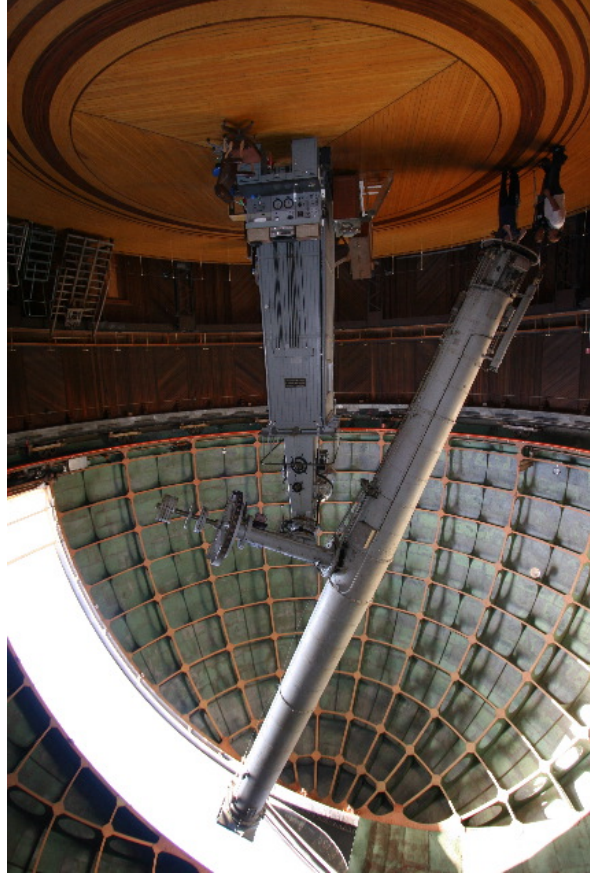
Lick Observatory was the world's first permanently equipped mountaintop astronomical observatory. It demonstrated the feasibility of sustained work at a high, remote site, where the best observing conditions are found. Almost all subsequent research observatories have followed suit. Lick's pioneering influence and inspirational contributions to science are acknowledged by astronomers worldwide.



James Lick (1796-1876)

The observatory is the legacy of self-made California millionaire James Lick. Construction began in 1876—the year of his death—with the building of the 19-mile road that climbs from the Santa Clara Valley to the 4200-foot summit of Mount Hamilton, and was completed in 1888. It has been a part of the University of California ever since. Today, Lick Observatory continues its long tradition of innovation and quality research.

Public night-time viewings, in conjunction with historical and scientific lectures, are offered via the *Summer Visitors Program, Music of the Spheres* concert series and other events. Inquire at the Gift Shop or visit www.liccolick.org/public. Friends of Lick Observatory (FOL) promotes outreach and involvement in the observatory. By joining FOL you can help to support these efforts, be kept up-to-date on events at Lick and receive other benefits (www.liccolick.org/public/friends).



The Great Lick Refractor with its 36-in (0.9-m) diameter lenses was the largest telescope of its kind when the observatory opened. The body of James Lick has been entombed at the base of the supporting pier since re-interment on the morning of 9 January 1887.

"... A powerful telescope, superior to ... and also a suitable observatory connected therewith ... and make them useful in promoting science."

— James Lick, Deed of Trust (1874)

Major Telescopes

- The observatory opened at the beginning of an era of rapid advances in astronomy. To keep pace with astronomy's growing demands, new instruments were added, and existing ones modified. Today Mount Hamilton houses 19th, 20th and 21st century telescopes.
- The Shane 120-inch (3-m) Reflector is the observatory's largest telescope, and the world's second largest from 1960 to 1973. It gathers data ranging from our solar system to distant galaxies. A visitors' gallery offers an impressive view of the telescope.
 - The 94-inch (2.4-m) Automated Planet Finder (APF) is Lick's newest telescope. APF is purpose-built to find and study extra-solar planets, a flourishing field, in which Lick played a pioneering role.
 - The Nickel 40-inch (1-m) Reflector has been a workhorse research and teaching telescope since 1979, when it replaced a 12-inch (0.3-m) refractor. Using up-to-date instrumentation, it addresses projects not needing the Shane's large aperture.
 - The Great 36-inch (0.9-m) Refractor was the centerpiece of the original observatory. On completion, it was the largest telescope of its kind, and remains an awe-inspiring monument to 19th-century engineering. Visitors are invited to join guided tours every half hour.
 - The Crossley 36-inch (0.9-m) Reflector, built in England in 1879, employed a design that anticipated the widespread transition to reflecting telescopes. Moved to Mount Hamilton in 1895, it has made pivotal contributions to astronomy.
 - The fully robotic 30-inch (0.76 m) Katzman Automatic Imaging Telescope (KAIT) tirelessly searches for supernovae, exploding stars that inform the study of so-called Dark Energy thought to drive the accelerating expansion of the Universe.
 - The 20-inch (0.5-m) Carnegie Dual Astrogaph systematically measured the motions of stars in the Milky Way for decades. These observations also produced the first large-scale map of the distribution of galaxies in the 'nearby' universe.