About the Planetarium...

The planetarium is located at the University of South Australia Mawson Lakes and is part of the School Of Natural and Built Environments.

It contains a Zeiss ZKP-1 star projector that simulates the starry sky on an 8 meter dome and has seating for 45. The projector provides a remarkably realistic sense of being under the real night sky. It is used to show the sky as seen from the southern hemisphere, pointing out constellations, the Milky Way, the Magellanic Clouds and where to look for planets. It also demonstrates the general celestial motions that cause the sky to appear different at various times of the night and year.

The planetarium is also equipped with a digital MirrorDome projection system by which our astronomy educators can the audience on a virtual guided tour of the solar take system and the universe.

We can tailor the sessions to the audience.

While it is one of the smaller planetaria (yes that’s the plural) in Australia, it has the advantage that we can interact with the audience and their questions. We find this often provides a unique and rewarding experience for the visitor.

The Planetarium experience...

Some topic areas we can cover include

**Sky and Space**
- What are constellations
- What is the difference between a star and planet
- Why does the Moon change phases during the month
- How the cycles of the Sun and Moon affect us on Earth
- Animals that use the stars for navigation
- How far out have humans travelled in space
- What can a pair of binoculars show in the sky

**Solar System topics**
- The order and distances of planets
- Difference between rocky planets and gas giants
- Why are gas giants so big and rocky planets small
- Where do asteroids and comets come from
- How was the moon formed
- About planetary exploration with space craft

**Basic questions about the stars**
- What is a star
- How are they formed, how do they die
- The nature of the Milky Way (is it a galaxy)
- How big is the Milky Way
- How old is the universe
- What are black holes
- Have we found life out in space
Some useful information when visiting the Planetarium...

As the planetarium is located within the School of Natural and Built Environments there are often classes and tutorials in progress in adjacent rooms. **We ask that you keep your group quiet as they come up the stairs and while entering the planetarium.**

- When inside the planetarium we also ask that students respect the equipment and chairs.
- Please refer to the Booking Form for costs.
- The Planetarium has a maximum seating capacity of **45 people**.
- Mobile phones should be turned off. No torches or other lights are allowed.
- Be aware that the lights will be turned down and it will be dark for most of the session.
- If you want to take photos inside the planetarium please ask the astronomy educator running your session.
- A session lasts for 50 minutes, or more depending on the time requested by the organisers of the group.
- Toilets are located on the same floor as the planetarium, diagonally across the foyer.
- A parking information sheet will be provided to the organiser of the visit once the booking is confirmed.
- There is a lift located in the building for wheelchair and elderly access up to level 2.

TO BOOK: call reception on 8302 3138 or email: [adelaide.planetarium@unisa.edu.au](mailto:adelaide.planetarium@unisa.edu.au)

*We trust that you and your group will find the planetarium visit educational and enjoyable!*
Why not add a Movie to your session?
They are fun, educational and the children love them!

Wildest Weather in the Solar System
Join National Geographic on a spectacular journey to witness the most beautiful, powerful, and mysterious weather phenomena in the solar system. From a storm the size of a 100-megaton hydrogen bomb, to a 400-year-old hurricane, to a dust storm that could engulf entire planets. Audiences will fly through the thick atmosphere of Venus, encounter magnetic storms on the sun, liquid methane showers on Titan, and anticyclones whirling at hundreds of miles per hour on Jupiter. Packed with eye-popping visuals, amazing computer generated imagery and cutting-edge science.
After this whirlwind adventure, you’ll be glad you live on Earth!

**Suitable for:** 7+ years old  
**Show Duration:** 20 minute film

Tycho to the Moon
'Tycho to the Moon' is a show produced especially for the kids - shown on the Planetarium 360 degree full digital dome. Tycho is the dog that doesn’t just howl at the moon...he goes there. Blast off on an amazing ride with Tycho and his friends, Ruby and Michael on a great adventure in space. Learn about night and day, phases of the moon, space travel and the lunar surface. See what it is like to play in zero gravity, watch meteors shoot across the night sky, witness earth from space and get a close up look at the sun.

**Suitable for:** 3-7 years old  
**Movie Duration:** 20 minute film

Astronaut
The exploration of space is the greatest endeavour that humankind has ever undertaken. What does it take to be part of this incredible journey? What does it take to become an astronaut?
Experience a rocket launch from inside the body of an astronaut. Explore the amazing worlds of inner and outer space, from floating around the International Space Station to manoeuvring through microscopic regions of the human body. Discover the perils that lurk in space as we subject ‘Chad’, our test astronaut, to everything that space has to throw at him.

**Suitable for:** 5 years +  
**Movie Duration:** 23 minutes