

Transit of Venus 2012

HAWAII · JUNE 3RD - 7TH, 2012



SKY
& TELESCOPE



The next Venus transit won't be until December 2117... 106 years from now. DON'T MISS THIS LAST-CHANCE OPPORTUNITY!

<http://InSightCruises.com/Transit>

Experience the 2012 Transit of Venus in an Otherworldly Setting. Join *Sky and Telescope's* Editor in Chief Robert Naeye on the Aloha State's astronomy-oriented Big Island for a memorable transit expedition. We'll stay at the four-star Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort & Spa, home to gracious Hawaiian hospitality, exotic scenery, and classic sunsets. Naeye sets the scene with presentations on transits of Venus and the latest in planetary science. Transit day you'll head up Mauna Kea above the clouds (with excellent prospects for perfect weather) to 9,300 feet, based near the Onizuka Visitor's Center and the viewing sites of Hawaii's astronomy clubs. You can opt to ascend to Mauna Kea's observatory-clustered peak at nearly 14,000 feet, visit the Keck Observatory's telescopes, and take in an unforgettable view of the transit's progress. To ice the cake, June 6 we'll visit Keck Observatory headquarters in Waimea and learn about Keck's current endeavors, plus get a privileged behind-the-scenes look at Keck's command-and-control center.

When it's time for transit viewing, go where the pros go — Mauna Kea, with *Sky & Telescope*. Reserve your adventure now by visiting <http://InSightCruises.com/Transit> or call InSight Cruises at 650-787-5665. Aloha!

- The Asteroid Impact Threat
- Cassini at Saturn, Part 1: The Planet & Rings
- Cassini at Saturn, Part 2: The Moons

DAY 3: June 5

Transit Day — Welcome to the Keck Observatory

Today we climb Mauna Kea to the summit, to the Keck Observatory (pictured above), at nearly 14,000 feet of elevation, to observe the transit. Above the cloud ceiling we're practically guaranteed to have clear skies and a perfect view. For those sensitive to very high altitude, we will also be observing from the Mauna Kea VIS (aka Onizuka Visitor's Center) at 9,300 feet.

The day's itinerary:

- 10:00am: Depart Waikoloa Beach Marriott
- Noon: Arrive VIS, picnic lunch served
- 12:10pm: Venus first touches the Sun
- 1:00pm: Group departs VIS for the Observatory on Mauna Kea
- 4:00pm: Afternoon snack
- 6:45pm: Transit ends, group departs VIS
- 8:15pm: Return to Marriott
- 8:30pm: Celebration reception and dinner

DAY 4: June 6

Keck Headquarters

This morning we take a 30-minute bus drive to the Keck Observatory headquarters in Waimea. We'll hear two lectures by prominent astronomers, "scope out" the Keck telescopes on the Mauna Kea summit (through a telescope in the lobby of the headquarters), and spend some quality time in the unique gift shop.

The day's itinerary:

- 8:30am: Depart Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort
- 9:00am: Arrive at Keck Observatory HQ for two 90-minute presentations and tour
- 12:30pm: Depart Keck Observatory HQ
- 1:00pm: Arrive at Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort
- Relaxed afternoon on the Resort property

DAY 5: June 7

Fly Home Depart from KOA Airport

Optional Tour to the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center

'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai'i is an astronomy and culture education center located in Hilo, Hawaii. It features exhibits and shows dealing with Hawaiian culture and history, astronomy (particularly at the Mauna Kea Observatories), and the overlap between the two.

Itinerary for The 'Imiloa Astronomy Center, June 8:

- 8:30am: Depart Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort
- 10:00am: Arrive at 'Imiloa Astronomy Center for a private "insiders" presentation, a planetarium show, and time to roam the exhibits
- 12:30pm: Lunch in Hilo
- 3:00pm: Depart the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center
- 4:30pm: Arrive at Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort
- Farewell cocktail party



DAY 1: June 3

Arrive Kona

Upon your arrival at Kona, you'll grab a taxi to our hotel and conference center, the luxurious Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort & Spa. This evening there will be a welcome reception (7pm) where you will enjoy cocktails and light hors d'oeuvres.



DAY 2: June 4

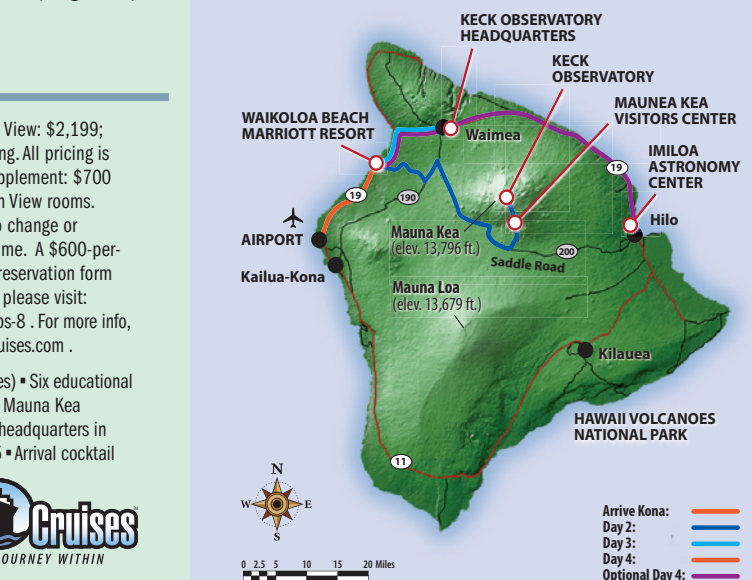
Full Day of Classes Waikoloa Beach Marriott

Learn all about Transits of Venus, past and present, from *Sky & Telescope* Editor Robert Naeye. He and other famous astronomy speakers will be delivering several talks over the next couple of days. In addition to the talk described below, other scheduled talks include:

- The Hubble Space Telescope's Greatest Scientific Achievements

PRICING: Garden/Mountain View: \$1,999 pp; Pool View: \$2,199; Ocean View: \$2,499; please inquire for Suite pricing. All pricing is per-person based on double occupancy. Single supplement: \$700 for Garden/Mountain view; \$750 for Pool or Ocean View rooms. Single rates are capacity controlled and subject to change or withdrawal (prior to a confirmed booking) at any time. A \$600-per-person advance payment along with a completed reservation form confirms your space. For full terms and conditions please visit: http://InSightCruises.com/top_g/st03_top.html#tabs-8. For more info, contact us at 650-787-5665 or Concierge@InSightCruises.com.

What's included: • Four hotel nights (including all taxes) • Six educational classes • Round-trip transportation to the summit of Mauna Kea • Round-trip transportation to the Keck Observatory headquarters in Waimea • Lunch and snack on Mauna Kea on June 5 • Arrival cocktail party on June 3 • Celebration cocktail reception and dinner at the Marriott on June 5.



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