# *Space tourism* Excursions and incursions

## Excursions

**Astronomical Society of Australia**

The Astronomical Society of Australia website provides a comprehensive list of planetariums and observatories across Australia that you can access and/or visit.

Astronomical Society of Australia website: <http://astronomy.org.au/education/observatories-planetaria/>

### Visit your local planetarium or observatory

**Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium**

The Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium is located in the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha. The planetarium uses an optical star projector to recreate a realistic night sky on the 12.5m diameter projection dome and displays a stunning visual of the sky’s astronomical features.

Brisbane City Council website: <http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/facilities-recreation/arts-culture/sir-thomas-brisbane-planetarium>

**Sydney Planetarium at Sydney Observatory**

The Sydney Observatory has a new planetarium that offers stunning shows and displays featuring the constellations, the Mars Rover and space travel.

Sydney Observatory | Powerhouse Museum website: <http://www.sydneyobservatory.com.au/whatson/sydney-planetarium/>

**Melbourne Planetarium at the Australian Museum**

The Melbourne Planetarium offers stunning shows on the Moon, starlight, black holes and the solar system as well as having students follow the adventures of Tycho the dog and his friends into space and to the Moon.

Melbourne Planetarium | Museum of Victoria website: <http://museumvictoria.com.au/planetarium/>

**Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex**

Located at Tidbinbilla, outside of Canberra, the Deep Space Communication Complex (CDSCC) provides information about the role Australia plays in the exploration of space. Learn about the Moon and view images from across the solar system and beyond. Explore the largest antenna complex in the southern hemisphere.

NASA Deep Space Network | Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex | CSIRO website: <http://www.cdscc.nasa.gov/Pages/visitorcentre.html>

**Adelaide Planetarium**

Learn about the constellations, planets and stars at the Adelaide Planetarium where they use state-of-the-art equipment to provide stunning visual displays of the cosmos. They offer night-time shows, movies and even short courses on astronomy.

University of South Australia website: <http://www.unisa.edu.au/planetarium/>

**Launceston Planetarium**

The Launceston Planetarium offers a range of shows displaying the stunning skies of Tasmania using their star projector that allows you to experience the feeling of being outside under the starry sky.

Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery website: <http://www.qvmag.tas.gov.au/qvmag/?c=23>

**Perth Observatory**

Visit the observatory to experience a range of star-viewing tours during the night including dark-sky nights, moonlit nights and full-moon nights. Daytime tours are also available.

Perth Observatory | Government of Western Australia | Department of Parks and Wildlife website: <http://www.perthobservatory.wa.gov.au/>

## Incursions

**Starlab**

Starlab is an inflatable and portable planetarium that is erected indoors at your school and provides sessions similar to what a conventional Planetarium can offer. Sessions can be tailored to your students learning requirements and are generally conducted one class at a time.

Starlab offers sessions that align with the Australian Curriculum: Science Year 5. Sessions on the following topics are available.

* The solar system
* Size and distances in space
* Using the Sun and Southern Cross as a compass
* Which stars and planets are in the sky tonight?
* Scientific discovery by probes and satellites.

Journeyman Education Services website: <http://journeyman.net.au/> or <http://www.starlab.com.au>

**Night-time sky viewing**

Organise a viewing of the night sky at your school.

Incorporate the viewing into a year level or whole school experience that could include:

* night-time camping under the stars;
* late night supper picnic;
* telescopic photography.

Search your school parent body or local community for astronomy enthusiasts who can supply telescopes to view the night sky.