



Friday, August 4, 2017

KITION PLANETARIUM & OBSERVATORY STARRY BRIDGES 2017

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA IN AUGUST 2017

This year, in August, there will be 3 spectacular celestial phenomena: a partial lunar eclipse, a solar eclipse and the Perseids meteor shower.

Partial Lunar Eclipse – 7th August 2017

A lunar eclipse occurs when the Moon enters the shadow of the Earth. As a result, the brightness of the Moon's surface reduces and we observe the Earth's dark shadow moving across the Moon's disc. The Moon rises over Cyprus at 19:33 on the 7th August, and by this time the Moon will be in the Earth's penumbra. The partial eclipse will start at 20:15 when the Moon enters the dark Earth's shadow, known as the umbra. At this time the lower part of the lunar disc will become darker. The eclipse will reach its maximum at 21:19 and at that moment about a quarter of the Moon will darken. At 22:22 the partial eclipse will end, while the penumbral phases will continue till 23:53.

Perseids Meteor Shower 2017

The Perseids meteor shower is the annual phenomenon that occurs when particles of the comet 109P/Swift–Tuttle enter the Earth's atmosphere at the huge velocity of 58 km/s. These particles, burn up producing meteors which we describe as "shooting stars". Perseids have already been recorded over Cyprus in July and they can be observed all through August. The mean maximum for Perseids this year is expected to be on 12th August from 17:00 till 13th August at 06:30. It will be dark in Cyprus for a large fraction of this time, so this means that we are at a great advantage to observe the maximum. The Perseids meteor shower produces many bright fireballs and this is one of the reasons why it is the most famous meteor shower of all.

Total Solar Eclipse – 21st August 2017

A total solar eclipse occurs when the Moon completely blocks the Sun from the view of an observer on the Earth. Totality only occurs for a few minutes and is one of the most impressive astronomical phenomena that can be observed from Earth. Research and discoveries carried out by KITION PLANETARIUM & OBSERVATORY on historic observations of total solar eclipses and how they influenced the outlook of Europeans and other cultures has been published in international academic journals. This year a total eclipse will occur between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, crossing the USA from West to East. The longest duration of the totality will be about 2 minutes 40 seconds. Partial phases of the eclipse will be visible in some countries in Western Europe around sunset. The eclipse will not be visible from Cyprus. Observations of the total solar eclipses nowadays give valuable scientific information. For instance, the corona, which is the outer layer of the Sun, can be studied in detail. The corona is not usually visible due to the very bright solar surface. Also, precise measurements of the diameter of the Sun are made and theories of gravity are tested. The KITION PLANETARIUM & OBSERVATORY is taking part in this research and has organized complex scientific expeditions to 2 different sites in the USA to make observations of the total solar eclipse.

All times are given for the KITION PLANETARIUM & OBSERVATORY. At other locations times may differ.

KITION PLANETARIUM & OBSERVATORY - Tel: 9999 1111 Fax: 2442 5300

Email: planetarium@cytanet.com.cy - URL: <http://www.astronomycyprus.eu> - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/kition/>



To mark the importance of the above described phenomena, the KITION PLANETARIUM & OBSERVATORY organizes the following public events.

7 AUGUST

19:00 "ECLIPSES IN CULTURE" (EN)
OBSERVATIONS OF THE LUNAR ECLIPSE
INFO & BOOKING: TEL. +357 99991111
VENUE: KITION PLANETARIUM & OBSERVATORY
9 AMMOCHOSTOU, KITI, 7550, LARNACA

12 AUGUST

19:00 "PERSEIDS METEOR SHOWER 2017"

As well as relaxing under the stars, observing the meteor shower and having fun, the event includes the following activities:

- Live Music with Yuri Melikov
- Tours of the night sky
- Telescope observations of the Moon and planets

Venue: THE SPOT, KITEMED KITESURFING SCHOOL, SOFATADES, LARNACA

COORDINATES: 34°48'N 33°33'E

<https://wego.here.com/directions/drive/mylocation/KiteSurfing-Cyprus-KiteMed:34.817457,33.548501?map=34.81746%2C33.5485%2C15%2Cnormal&avoid=carHOV>

These events are part of project "Starry Bridges 2017" which was selected by the International Astronomical Union as one of the best astronomy projects in the world in 2017.

Best regards,

George Troullias

Director, KITION PLANETARIUM & OBSERVATORY
Cyprus National Coordinator for UNESCO International Year of Light 2015
Cyprus National Coordinator for UNESCO International Day of Light
Cyprus National Coordinator for Astronomers Without Borders
Cyprus National Coordinator for UN World Space Week
Cyprus National Coordinator for Sidewalk Astronomers
Cyprus Regional Coordinator for INTERNATIONAL ASTEROID DAY
NASA Radio Jove Project

Projects Coordinated and involved:
Starry Bridges 2017, Program Developer / Organizer
Cosmic Light Reaches Cyprus 2016, Program Developer / Organizer
UCLAN, International Astrophysics Conference,
Disc Dynamics and Planet Formation, Organizational Partner 2015
KITION 2014 – CHARITY ASTRONOMY FESTIVAL
Host/Organizer, Cyprus DomeFest 2011
Cyprus Science Festival Organizational Partner 2011
BEYOND IYA2009
EARTH HOUR BLUE 60+
GLOBE AT NIGHT
SEASONS WITHOUT BORDERS
BEAUTY WITHOUT BORDERS
InOMN (INTERNATIONAL OBSERVE THE MOON NIGHT)
METEORS WITHOUT BORDERS
ECLIPSE WITHOUT BORDERS
GALILEAN NIGHTS
GLOBAL ASTRONOMY MONTH
OBSERVING SOLAR AND JOVIAN BURSTS
GEOLOGY AND FOSSILS OF CYPRUS
BIODIVERSITY OF CYPRUS

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