



Our Services

Private event for your group at Kielder Observatory

Guided stargazing session at your location in the dark sky park

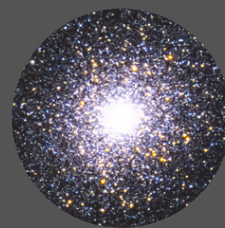
Astronomer talk at your indoor venue in the North East

Digital talk or interactive session

Educational workshops or planetarium visit

All enquiries:

Please drop us an email at
admin@kielderobservatory.org
Or call to discuss on **0191 265 5510**



Private Events

Book out Kielder Observatory for your group and enjoy our unique and inspirational venue all to yourself. Choose between an early evening event with beautiful views across the Kielder valley with a tour of the facility and fascinating talks, or a prime time night event with exclusive use of our facilities, equipment and team for your group. If conditions allow, letting your guests observe through our telescopes will always be the priority.

Early evening event

A shorter introductory event for two hours approximately 5-7pm (exact timing depends on our event schedule). Through most of the year this will be a daytime event but through midwinter will take place in darkness. Your group will receive a full tour and short talks. Maximum 36 guests.

Available Mon, Tue or Thu or where we haven't taken bookings yet.



Main evening event

The event is three hours long and has the maximum capacity of 36 guests. Your group will get the full observatory experience with a tour of the facility and all the equipment, science talks on the topic of your choice and plenty of observing through our telescopes if the skies are clear. All guests receive a complimentary hot drink. Timing is approx. 8-11pm September to April and slightly later in summer to account for the shorter nights.

We operate at full capacity with events every evening, so this private event is booked in place of a public event and we can only fit you in where the public event has not already attracted bookings. Book well in advance!



Guided Stargazing Session



You will need to make sure you have venue available for the talk in the case of bad weather - ideally with a screen for imagery!

Are you staying overnight somewhere in the Northumberland International Dark Sky Park? We can send an astronomer to your location and they can take you on night sky safari tour of the constellations using a laser pointer and one of our portable telescopes, weather permitting. If it's cloudy our astronomer will bring a back-up presentation on a topic of your choice to bring the universe alive through a screen and mind-blowing facts!

External Astronomer Talk

We'll bring the universe to you! Our astronomers are all experienced science communicators and can give fascinating talks on a wide range of astronomy and physics related topics. Get your students, club members or local community engaged in learning about space, stars or dark sky preservation. We can work with any audience size, but you'll need a large screen or projector for the stunning images we'll share - many taken in Kielder by our team!



Digital sessions



Our online services which we introduced in 2020 due to event restrictions have proven to be extremely popular and we plan to continue offering these indefinitely! We have run sessions for schools, U3A groups, Scouts troops, community groups and for dark sky festivals.

Interactive session

Using video conferencing software such as Zoom, Google Meet and Microsoft Teams, our astronomers can deliver sessions into your classroom/venue/living room and directly interact with your group. This is aimed at smaller groups (up to 30) for greater impact and to be as interactive as possible. We can cover all sorts of astronomy, physics and space related topics - take a look at our public events themes to get an idea of the topics we do. If there's something not listed you'd like to learn about just ask!

Livestream

As a 'live event' within Microsoft Teams, a livestream on a specific topic would be arranged for a specific time and date and available for an unlimited amount of sign-ins (Microsoft Teams software isn't required, the livestreams can just be watched in a web browser). It's a bit less interactive as the astronomer can't see or hear the viewers, but we'll always include a Q&A section so the organiser can submit questions on behalf of group to be answered live during the stream. If you have a very large expected audience or are a school and want multiple classes participating at the same time, this is the best choice.

We have a number of resources available online for free:

Kielder Observatory Podcasts: podfollow.com/kielderobs/view

Kielder Observatory YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/@kielderobservatory5211

Content from the 2021 Northumberland Dark Skies Festival:
www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/northumberland-dark-skies-festival/

Workshops and planetarium

Our team regularly visit schools and other community venues to deliver interactive workshops to engage your groups in astronomy and physics. We cover a variety of different popular science topics and subjects that tie in and expand on the national curriculum. Exploring the light spectrum with an infrared camera and making UV bead bracelets, hands-on with inflatable planets exploring the solar system or getting up close to real meteorites - we bring the inspiration of space into your school or venue.

We can serve all North East locations - for further afield we will include overnight lodging in our quote.



For an event with maximum impact, why not book a visit from one of our inflatable planetariums? We'll bring the wonder of dark skies to your location and give immersive shows within the dome to your guests or students. We'll send two of our astronomers; one with your guests inside the planetarium while the other leads fun science workshops outside the dome, so we can engage with as many people as possible during the visit. Schools, shopping centres and county fairs - we can adapt the programme to all ages and backgrounds!

Workshops available as a full or half day visit from one or two astronomers. Planetarium bookings are for the full day. Available any day of the week!

