Green Bank Observatory (GBO) is home to the world’s largest fully-steerable radio telescope, the Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope (GBT). Astronomers from all over the planet use the GBT to investigate everything from the properties of near-earth asteroids to the environments surrounding super-massive black holes. Breakthrough Listen, the most comprehensive campaign to search for techno-signatures from other civilizations in the Universe, is also a regular project on the GBT!

GBO is truly a high-tech village. Skilled engineers, technicians, computer scientists, machinists, and mechanics ensure that the GBT always functions at the top of its capabilities. We cordially invite you to visit, take a tour, and discover more!

Want to go deeper? Try one of our behind-the-scenes tours.

**Be a part of our Science!**

Making a gift to the Observatory supports our daily operation and mission, including our Education and Public Outreach program, which reaches nearly 10,000 students annually. Your donations and memberships can be made in honor of- or in memory of- and are wonderful gifts for any science lover!

To learn more about advancing our mission, visit our website:

greenbankobservatory.org/engage/
Plan Your Trip

For all tours, events, and educational programs, visit our online guide.

greenbankobservatory.org/2022-science-center/

PUBLIC SITE TOURS

Public site tours offered year-round!
Tour the fascinating world of radio astronomy from the groundbreaking instruments of the 1930s to the world’s premier radio telescope, the GBT! This family-friendly tour is our most popular offering!

Visit the Exhibit Hall
Discover how radio astronomers learn about the Universe through interactive exhibits. Fascinating facts await you in our exhibit hall, built inside a massive Faraday cage. Don’t know what a Faraday cage is? You’ll learn that and so much more on our site tours!

Do Some Shopping
The Galaxy Gift Shop offers apparel, collectibles, and the best variety of educational toys around! Indulge your inner scientist! Can’t make it to Green Bank? Join us virtually! We field trips, live stream presentations.

Have a Bite
The Starlight Café is currently offering pizzas, subs, and snacks. Keep an eye on our website where we’ll announce menu expansions and indoor dining.

Visit shop.greenbankobservatory.org to purchase tickets in advance (strongly recommended).

SPECIAL TOURS

SETI Tours
Our SETI tour celebrates Green Bank’s historic Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI). It begins with an exclusive presentation right in the central room of our B5-1 Telescope, where the search began with Frank Drake’s Project Ozma. From there, guests enjoy exclusive admittance into the 140-foot telescope where Jill Tarter’s Project Phoenix took place and then to normally-restricted GBT access points. The tour ends with a discussion with a GBO astronomer, where you will learn about the future of SETI and the role of the GBT in the Breakthrough Listen project.

High Tech Tours
Look inside receivers and marvel at the precise engineering required to collect the faintest signals from the Universe. An Observatory engineer will pull back the curtain on our site labs and control room as you see what makes our Observatory one of the world’s premier radio telescopes facilites!

Nature Walk
Explore one of our many trails with a resident naturalist. Experience the flora, fauna, and geology that makes our Observatory unique.

Virtual Opportunities
Can’t make it to Green Bank? Join us virtually! We field trips, live stream events, and more!

EVENTS

Star Parties
GBO staff will treat you to views of the night sky through optical telescopes!

Family Science Labs
Get your family started in science! Kids, ages 4-9, will love our fun-filled, hands-on science experiments.

Drake Lectureship
The Frank Drake Lectureship is awarded each year to a member of the sciences, arts, or humanities community in recognition of their contributions to advancing human knowledge and creativity.

Open House & Family Science Day
Where one can build and launch a rocket, test your engineering skills, do fun science experiments, and see some of the biggest telescopes in the whole world ALL IN ONE DAY?

Special Events

Space Race Rumpus
Join us for a weekend-long cycling festival with a variety of trails! Whether you are an experienced mountain biker or complete novice, there are rides, races, and cycling for all ages and levels.

Star Quest
The nation’s largest optical and radio star party! Enjoy optical presentations, hands-on workshops, and dark West Virginia skies.

Garth Newel Emerging Artist Fellow Showcase
Music comes to the Observatory from the Garth Newel Music Center in Warm Springs, Virginia, and the Emerging Artist Fellowship program.

Organized Group Tours
Motor coach groups are welcome. Tours can be scheduled any day of the week, year-round. A $5 fee per person is required for motor coach tours; anticipate a two hour minimum visit for the full tour.

Educational Field Trips
Organized educational groups may schedule free tours, activities, day-trips, and overnight field trips. See a full list of approved groups here. Overnight students experience science first-hand by completing research projects with a real radio telescope. A trip to the Observatory might just inspire your students to join the next generation of scientists and engineers.

Scouting Trips
Tour reservations are free for organized scout groups but advance arrangements are required. For overnight stays and badge events, see dates on our website events calendar. Day trips can be scheduled any day of the week.

We’ll come to you!
West Virginia educators, formal and informal, can request a college ambassador from our Science Public Outreach Team (SPOT) to visit their school or group and deliver standards-based presentations and hands-on activities. Virtual presentations are available for in-state and out of state presentations.

Contact
Email tours@gbobservatory.org for questions and reservation information.

PLEASE NOTE

Dates and offerings may change at any time and without notice. We highly recommend checking our website for current operations and applicable COVID restrictions before traveling.

Advance reservations required for groups, field trips, special tours, and some events. Space is limited for all activities. Background screening required for SETI Tours, High Tech Tours, and overnight groups. Masks and other safety restrictions apply to all visitors.

Find schedule, pricing, policies, and in-depth activity information at greenbankobservatory.org

www.wvspot.org

* COVID protective requirements may apply for tours or facility access.
Visit the Green Bank Telescope
Green Bank Observatory

Hours of Operation

Nov 1 - May 27
Open Thur - Mon,
9:30-5:30
Closed Tues - Wed
Tours: 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00

May 28 - Sept 5
Open Daily;
8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Tours Hourly 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sept 7 - Oct 31
Open Thur - Mon,
8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Closed Tues - Wed
Tours Hourly 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Starlight Café Hours
Nov 1 - May 27
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
May 28 - Oct 31
11:00 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Closed Dates:
4/17 for Spring Holiday
11/22-25 for Thanksgiving Holiday
12/24-28 for Christmas Holiday
1/2/2023 for New Year’s Holiday

Admission & Tour Rates

Science Center Admission
$5/pp (Ages 6+); Explore our interactive Exhibit Hall, learn about the history of radio astronomy, and attend a presentation about GBO!

Bus Tours
$10/pp (Ages 6+); One hour; Includes admission to explore Science Center, presentation, & bus ride!

Children 5 and under — free
Veterans & Active Service Members — free
Our Members get special discounts. Ask about becoming a Member today!

Getting Here is Easy!

Green Bank Observatory

Welcome to the Quiet Zone!
The Green Bank Observatory Science Center is at the heart of the National Radio Quiet Zone, a 13,000 square mile region of minimized radio signal interference designated by the U.S. Government in 1958 to create a safe haven for radio astronomy.

Thank you for placing your phone in airplane mode when you arrive and turning it off completely, along with all other electronic devices, while touring the Observatory and grounds.

You can bring a film camera (non-digital) or purchase a disposable camera in our Gift Shop to capture your experiences at Green Bank Observatory.

greenbankobservatory.org/about/national-radio-quiet-zone/

Visit our website & social media for updates

Visit the Green Bank Telescope
Green Bank Observatory
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