

GUIDED TOURS of RUTGERS HISTORIC SCHANCK OBSERVATORY

Date: Saturday, January 28, 2023.

Time: Weather permitting, a guided tour will begin hourly at 11:15 AM, 12:15 PM, 1:15 PM, 2:15 PM, 3:15 PM, and 4:15 PM. Each of the guided tours will last approximately 40 minutes.

Location: The guided tours will depart from in front of Geology Hall and then proceed on foot for the short distance across Queens Campus to the Daniel S. Schanck Observatory.

Geology Hall
Rutgers Queens Campus
85 Somerset Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Admission: Admission is free.

Restrictions: Attendance of the tours of the Observatory is limited to persons 9 years of age and older. Minors younger than 16 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Each tour is limited to a minimum of one adult and, because of the small size of the historic observatory, a maximum of ten (10) persons.

Viewing the vintage telescope located on the second-floor Observation Deck requires climbing the twenty steps (15 feet, one and one-half stories) of the steep, narrow, and winding staircase. All guests must be in good physical health to go up and down the stairs of the observatory on their own and without any assistance.

Registration: Guests must register for an available opening prior to the start of a tour by signing up at the Geology Museum.

Tour Summary: The activity consists of an invited guided tour of Rutgers' historic, recently and beautifully renovated, but perpetually mysterious Daniel S. Schanck Astronomical Observatory (Est. 1866). A nod to the Tower of the Winds of 1st century B.C. Athens and its ancient time keepers, begin the tour of the Observatory by enjoying the building's Greek Revival architecture. From the stately Front Portico walk into the Entrance Hall of the Main Building, which is dominated by the large, centrally-located pillar that supports the main telescope. Next pass through the diminutive Hallway to see the Transit Room, a unique space once used to tell time and determine location. Culminate the tour by ascending the spiral stairway to the Observation Deck on the second floor of the Main Building, and there view the recently restored vintage 150 mm (6-inch) aperture Georges Prin refractor telescope (Mfd. Paris, 1929), an exquisite scientific instrument of the art deco period.

Advisements: Guests are welcome to take photographs of the observatory and telescope, as well as the other historic buildings of Rutgers Queen's Campus. Guests are kindly asked please not to touch the telescope and other historical artifacts within the Observatory, to refrain from eating or drinking in the Observatory, and to silence their audio devices during the tour.