

The Planetarium is the Treasure of Akashi

We are Newspaper Reporters! Akihito・Atsuko・Hinata・Yuto Ai・Aoi・MiMi・Koki

Akashi Municipal Planetarium is Cherished as the Town's Symbol.

We learned about the mechanism to project a stary night sky and history of the Akashi Municipal Planetarium.

It's so beautiful, just like a real night sky!



What is a Planetarium?

It's a machine that projects a lifelike night sky onto a round dome ceiling. The planetarium projector at the Akashi Municipal Planetarium is installed in a dome-shaped room next to the clock tower.



Inside here

Constellation name projector (Northern Hemisphere)

Ask the punster and star lover director!



Akashi Municipal Planetarium is the 'Museum of Time and the Universe' and the planetarium show, in particular, is the most popular one. This year marks the 100th anniversary since the birth of the planetarium in Germany, and commemorative events are taking place around the world.

Have fun staring at the stars!★



Akashi Municipal Planetarium Director Takeshi Inoue

Why was the Planetarium Invented?

The director of the German Museum had the idea of "displaying the night sky on indoor screens," and this led to the creation of the planetarium by a company called Carl Zeiss.

The history of planetariums

- October 21, 1923 The world's first planetarium was born at the German Museum.
- June 10, 1960 The Akashi Municipal Planetarium opened.
- January 17, 1995 The Great Hanshin Earthquake occurred in Hyogo Prefecture.
- August 29, 2012 Akashi's planetarium earned the title of **Japan's longest-serving planetarium**, with 52 years and 80 days of operation.
- October 21, 2023 The 100th anniversary of the world's first planetarium is celebrated.

100周年

In Japan, the first planetarium was established in Osaka in 1937.



A Planetarium That Survived The Earthquake

During the Great Hanshin Earthquake, the building cracked. However, miraculously, the planetarium remained unscathed.

Incredible! It is still operational today, even after the earthquake.



The clock stopped at 5:46 when the earthquake occurred.

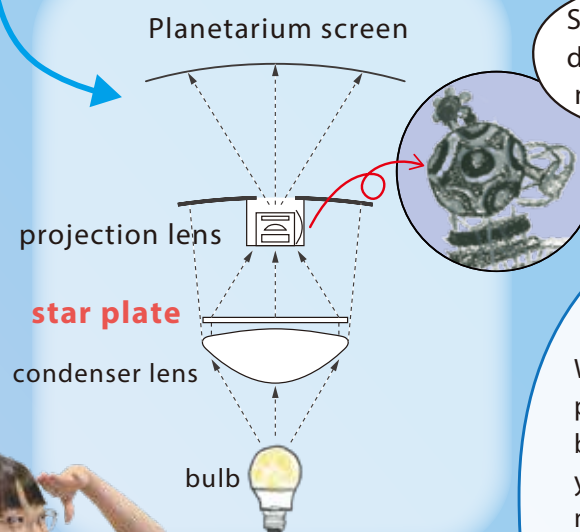


How are the Stars being Projected?

The light emitted from a bulb illuminates a plate with holes (star plate) positioned at the locations of stars. It then passes through a lens and is projected onto the screen.

Name: **Carl Zeiss Jena UPP23/3**
Height at the center of the machine: **3 meters**
Machine weight: Approximately **2 tons**

The Mechanism of a Planetarium



Star Plate

It's a crucial component that forms the basis of the night sky projection. Approximately 9,000 stars are manually punctured into 32 plates.



Smaller holes are created for dim stars, while larger holes are made for brighter stars.



We interviewed a mechanic who was inspecting the equipment

We replace light bulbs that are used for projecting the stars on a regular basis before they burn out. Once about every 10 years, engineers from the company that made our planetarium come here and check on the equipment.



Shunsuke Etou

Daily maintenance is important to project the stars clearly!

Light Bulbs

Sixty seven light bulbs in various shapes are used to show a realistic stary sky.



LED is too bright to project stars beautifully.

Let's Look at Old Photos!

How were they transported?

The parts were shipped from Germany by sea.



They were assembled in Akashi.

Who Operates the Planetarium?

We got information from a curator.

Since the museum opened 63 years ago, curators have been giving presentations to the audiences in the planetarium dome while manipulating the buttons and the pointer (a device to display an arrow for indicating stars). Because we are giving explanations impromptu so that we can respond to the reactions of audiences, you can always enjoy the planetarium shows even if you see them several times.



Presenter's Cockpit

Around the curator's seat, there are a lot of buttons, switches, and levers for operating the planetarium.



WOW!! Lots of buttons.



Curator members

