

Astronomy Night

It is night. Thousands of stars shine over our heads. A shooting star crosses the sky above us. The planet Earth continues its march through space, orbiting around its star, the Sun, as it has been for billions of years.



Galaxy M81

But what is a star? Stars are born and die as human beings? Or are they as eternal and immutable as our ancestors thought? And what about galaxies? How many are there in the Universe? The Universe also had a beginning? What was the Big Bang? Is the Universe made up of only stars and planets? Or is there something more? What is dark matter? What about dark energy? What about black holes? Could there be other planets similar to ours? And could there be life on them? And what about the expanse of our solar system...can there be life? Someday, maybe we can live on other worlds, for example on Mars?

Questions like these have always arisen in the heart of the human being from all eras immemorial and the science that attempts to answer these questions: ASTRONOMY.

The brightest minds from Aristotle to Newton, from Galileo to Einstein, have helped to advance the understanding of the laws governing the functionality of the universe and its evolution.

Today, increasingly powerful instruments are being built on the Earth surface and sent to space and every corner of the solar system, using sophisticated probes that allow us to study more in depth the mysteries of the universe.

And each new mission brings more surprises: craters on the moon with water, underground oceans on Europa, Io volcanoes, rain on Titan

There are few places on Earth where the conditions of the sky are especially good for observation, and these include the Canary Islands. The peaks of La Palma and Tenerife are home to some of the most important observatories in the world, and 18 countries have set up their research instruments to conduct their research further.



GranTeCan

Fuerteventura, even without the high mountains of other islands, offers an excellent quality of night sky, and because of that is a strong candidate to become a Starlight Reserve.

But one need not approach a professional observatory to discover the wonders of the Cosmos: with a small telescope one can now approach this fascinating world.

Every night the sky offers us different details, depending on the time of year, phase of the moon and the position of the planets - do not forget that they are always in motion.



The moon with its craters, its mountains and seas, can leave us fascinated by the wealth of detail that can be grasped, despite the distance between us; the beauty of Jupiter, with dark bands and light areas, plus its 4 satellites always moving, never cease to surprise; and the magic of Saturn with its rings do not leave anyone indifferent.

And the Deep Space unveils some of her treasures: distant galaxies we can barely glimpse, glittering globular clusters, bright nebulae - true star nurseries - open clusters as well, known as the Pleiades or the Beehive, double stars of pretty colours. ...