
Subject: Hawaii Telescope Tour Possible?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 01 Feb 2012 18:28:39 GMT

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Folks,

I am going to be on the Big Island of Hawaii in March with a group of science teacher colleagues of my wife. I have long entertained these people at cocktail and holiday parties with tall tales of a previous visit to Hawaii, in which I had one of the most profound experiences of my life.

Long-time readers of this newsgroup will assume I am referring to my story of having to fight off the attentions of a particularly large woman who was fascinated by the color of my eyes and the way they reflected light from my IDL T-shirt. I am not.

Rather, I am referring to the experience of being on a private tour of one of the Keck 10m telescopes and standing beside the mirror when the dome of the telescope was opened. And, there, just on the top of Mauna Kea, was a group of native Hawaiians burning incense and performing a ceremony to the mountain gods. It was mind boggling!

I've told this story so often that my science friends, including the astronomy teacher at my wife's school, want to see it for themselves.

Does anyone know if it is possible for the public to get to the top of Mauna Kea? Does anyone have connections that might get a small group of us *inside* a telescope? You would get free IDL consulting for life, and all the unsold books in my bedroom, if you could arrange this. ;-)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
