

A D L E R P L A N E T A R I U M
& A S T R O N O M Y M U S E U M

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Adler Planetarium Provides Unsurpassed Look at Mars from Rovers that Land in January

The latest generation of highly mobile and technologically advanced rovers land on Mars in January. These traveling laboratories, equipped with sensors, cameras and geological tools will transmit, via NASA, unrivaled images and information of the planet to audiences at the Adler during January and February.

"This unprecedented mission brings a new level of exploration technology to Mars," said Adler Astronomer Doug Roberts. "While the rovers are on Mars, visitors to the Adler can learn about the technology behind the mission and feel the excitement of being the first to see the results of this unique mission."

The Adler is the best place in the Midwest to see and learn more about Mars. The rover Spirit, the first of the two rovers, lands Jan. 3. The rover is a scientific laboratory equipped with sophisticated tools. Its microscope, rock grinder, robotic arm, and color camera will transmit images and information to the Adler, where they will be shown via stereoscopic display in the Crown Family Milky Way Galaxy 3-D Theater.

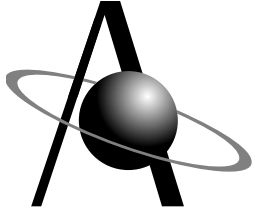
Visitors to the Adler during the Mars landing can also:

- Watch "Mars Now!" show with mission updates and Mars background information
- Drive a Mars Rover simulator
- Get an up close look at a full scale model of the Mars Rover
- Attend special programs about Mars in January, February and March
- Experience three new educational activities centered around Mars

On Jan. 24, the second rover, Opportunity, will join Spirit on the Martian surface. The twin rovers, each the size of a golf cart, can recognize and maneuver around small obstacles on their way to rocks that will be studied. The rovers will conduct the first microscopic observations of rock samples. NASA selected the rovers' exploration sites based on safe landing potential and in assessing whether liquid water on Mars has ever made environments conducive to life.

At 7 PM, Jan. 2, Dr. David Grinspoon of the Southwest Research Institute and author of the book *Lonely Planets* will speak at the Adler on the natural philosophy of alien life. An advisor to NASA's Astrobiology program, Dr. Grinspoon will explore the question of extraterrestrial life from scientific, historical, and cultural perspectives.

**Adler Planetarium
& Astronomy Museum**
1300 S. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60605
312-922-STAR



A D L E R P L A N E T A R I U M
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Museum Hours

Monday-Friday 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Sat-Sun 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Special Holiday Hours:

Friday, November 28, Friday, December 26 through Sunday, January 4, 2004

9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Far Out Fridays take place on the first Friday of each month, and feature special programs during extended hours from 5 PM to 10 PM.

The Adler is closed Christmas Day and open New Year's Day.

Normal schedule resumes Monday, January 5, 2004

Regular Admission Fees

Ultimate Universe Adventure is \$18.00 for adults, \$17.00 for seniors 65 and older and \$16.00 for children 4 - 17. This package includes museum admission and choice of two sky shows.

Galaxy Passport is \$13.00 for adults, \$12.00 for seniors 65 and older and \$11.00 for children 4 - 17. Includes museum admission and choice of sky shows.

Visit www.adlerplanetarium.org or call (312) 922-STAR.

The Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum, America's first planetarium, has inspired more than 35 million visitors since its opening in 1930. Nine state-of-the-art exhibition galleries located in the stunning Sky Pavilion present modern space exploration and the history of astronomy. The world's first StarRider Theater, the most technologically advanced, audience-interactive planetarium, features virtual flights through the cosmos. The Adler's mission to present the human quest to better understand the Universe is led by our scientists and historians, working at the forefront of research in astronomy and its fascinating history.

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