

ADLER PLANETARIUM  
& ASTRONOMY MUSEUM

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## **MARS ROVER MODEL AT CHICAGO'S ADLER PLANETARIUM BEGINNING JANUARY 24**

Mars Exploration Rovers are now landing continually. The rover Opportunity lands on the Red Planet Jan. 24, joining the rover Spirit that arrived on Jan. 3. And in Chicago, a full-scale, detailed replica of the Mars rover goes on display Saturday, Jan. 24 at the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum for members and visitors to see up close.

"This very accurate authentic model brings exciting Mars research to life for visitors of every age and all levels of learning," said Adler President Paul H. Knappenberger, Jr., PhD, President of the Adler. "The Adler is a resource for people to learn about NASA missions, and our latest effort is presented nearly in real-time from the Martiawn surface. Adler's members and visitors are the first in the nation to see many results of the mission that have not been broadcast."

The Adler is the Midwest's premier location to learn more about Mars and our Universe. Spirit's images and information are shown at the Adler via stereoscopic display in the Crown Family 3-D Theater.

Visitors to the Adler during the Mars landings can also:

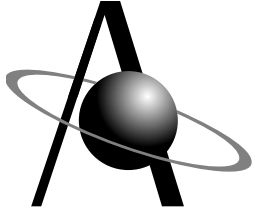
- Watch "Mars Now!" show with mission updates and Mars background information
- Drive a Mars Rover simulator
- Attend special programs about Mars in January, February and March
- Experience three new educational activities centered around Mars

The real rovers have been described as 'junior geologists,' examining Mars and its climate in the search for life now or in the past. Spirit and Opportunity will analyze rocks and soils with a compliment of five scientific instruments and a special rock abrasion tool, known as RAT. The rovers each weigh 300 pounds and gain operating energy from solar panels. Identical in every way, the two rovers working independently on opposite sides of the Red Planet travel up to 110 yards across the surface each Martian day.

This rover model's creator, Scale Model Company of Hawthorne, Calif., used original materials wherever possible, including movable parts that mimic the Mars Exploration Rovers. The rovers have a folding solar panel "deck" with a span of nearly 8 feet by more than 5 feet; the height from the base to the top instrument is nearly 5 feet.

The Mars Rover Model is on display through April. Visit [www.adlerplanetarium.org](http://www.adlerplanetarium.org) or call (312) 922-STAR.

**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**  
**&   A S T R O N O M Y   M U S E U M**

**Museum Hours**

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

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

**Regular Admission Fees**

Adults \$7; Seniors \$6 and children 4-17 \$4. Sky Shows are an additional charge.

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.