

# Education and Public Outreach at



## Observatoire de Haute-Provence



Haute-Provence Observatory (OHP), located in South-East France, is a medium-sized observing facility with 1.9m, 1.5m, 1.2m and 0.8m telescopes open to professional astronomers and qualified students from France and abroad. Instrumentation offered includes direct CCD imaging, low-resolution and high-resolution spectroscopy. OHP hosts different education-related activities involving "hands-on" astronomical observations for graduates, undergraduates, and advanced high-school students. The observatory is open to daytime visits by the general public on Wednesdays.

## Field trips for students



OHP hosts annual observing field trips by graduate student groups from different french universities (Paris 7, Paris 6, Paris Observatory, Grenoble, Strasbourg, Bordeaux) and by undergraduates from University College London. These groups are usually scheduled on the 1.5m, 1.2m or 0.8m telescopes where they acquire astronomical observations, under the supervision of tutors, which are later reduced and analysed on the site using dedicated Linux workstations.

## Summer observing schools



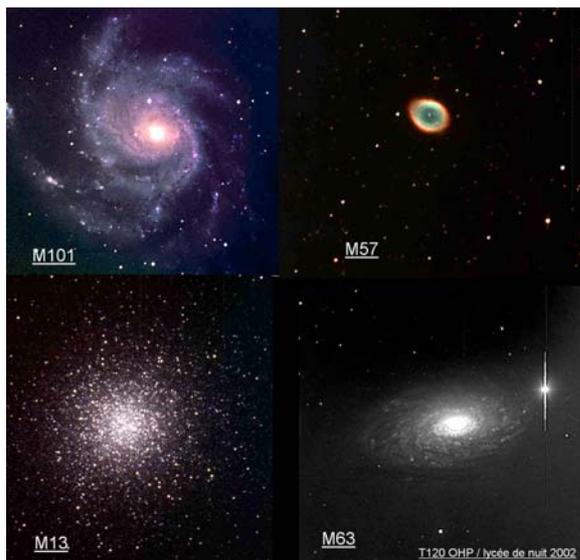
OHP now hosts the NEON Euro Summer Observing School every third year. This school is open to qualified graduate students from the European Union (and candidate countries) preparing a Ph.D. thesis (this is the continuation of the now terminated ESO/OHP school series which was started in 1986 and held every two years). The NEON school combines a series of lectures on practical subjects given by an international team with "hands-on" observing (by groups of three students) on the 1.9m, 1.5m and 1.2m telescopes. The data are reduced and analyzed using the dedicated Linux workstations and finally presented as a series of talks.

For the last ten years, the European Research Course on Atmospheres (ERCA) has been organized in Grenoble. The last week of each school takes place at OHP for lectures and practical observing sessions using the 1.2m telescope and some of the laser-sounding instruments at the geophysics research station located on the OHP grounds. About 50 Ph.D. students attend the school every year.

## Workshops for high-school students and teachers



As part of a nation-wide effort (called "Lycée de Nuit") to help high-school students get acquainted with observational astronomy, OHP hosts annual ANSTJ observing workshops for small groups (8-10) of advanced students, selected from different schools throughout the country. They are usually assigned time on the smaller telescopes, where they have the opportunity to carry out observations with a professional CCD camera.



Here are some color images of different celestial targets obtained with the 1m20 telescope CCD camera during the 2002 ANSTJ workshop in April 2002. They were taken using three different filters and were later reduced and combined by the high-school students themselves.

Every year, groups of about 10-20 high-school teachers are also offered the opportunity to get acquainted with observational astronomy using the 0.8m and 1m20 telescopes under the tutoring of professional astronomers from Paris Observatory.

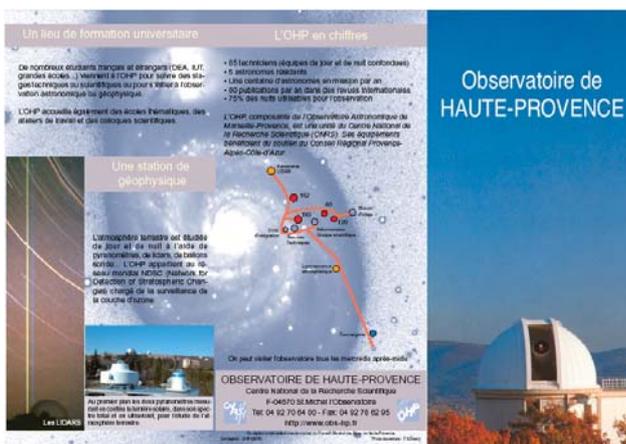
## Public visites



The observatory site is open to the public every wednesday afternoon. Visitors are shown a video presenting main OHP activities and are given a tour of the 1.9m telescope building, where the operation of both the telescope and the dome is demonstrated, and where they are also given the opportunity to ask questions to the local staff. Attendance is estimated at about 20000 persons/year. During the months of July and August, the visits are organized jointly with the Centre d'Astronomie(\*) in the near-by village of St.Michel l'Observatoire.



At the end of the visit the public can buy souvenirs and postcards in the visitors' shop.



A small brochure presenting the site and its activities is distributed to all visitors.

(\*)The Centre d'Astronomie at St.Michel l'Observatoire offers programs for school children groups throughout the year, usually one or two-week stays featuring introductory astronomy activities. The centre also organizes public conferences and public viewing sessions for solar and night-sky observations.

## Web site and Newsletter



**Observatoire de Haute-Provence**

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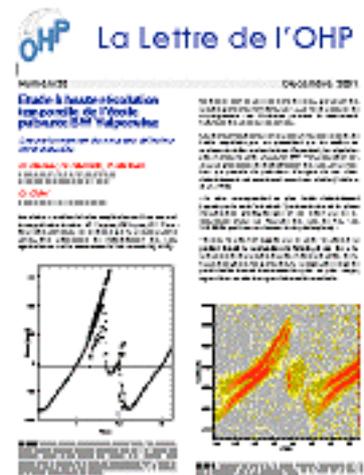
**Informations**

- [Guide Pratique](#) | [User's Guide](#)
- [Dépliant OHP](#) | [OHP Brochure](#) (PDF file 637 ko)
- [An Introduction to OHP](#)
- [Archivage et distribution des données](#) | [Data archiving & distribution](#)
- [A l'attention des astronomes en mission](#) | [Recommendations to observers](#)
- [Visites publiques de l'Observatoire](#) | [Public visits](#)
- [Qu'observe-t-on à l'OHP ?](#)

**12 exoplanètes découvertes à l'OHP avec Elodie**

- [HD 74156b](#) | [HD 74156c](#) | [HD 106252](#) | [HD 80606](#)
- [HD 178911B](#) | [HD 8574](#) | [HD 50554](#) | [HD 190228](#)
- [HD 209458](#) | [14 Her](#) | [Gliese 876](#) | [51 Peg](#)

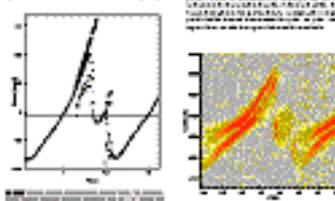
The OHP web site (<http://www.obs-hp.fr/>), which was started in 1996, presents detailed information about the observatory and its activities. Different presentations show the history of the site, some of the research topics being pursued and give details on the telescopes and instruments used.



**OHP La Lettre de l'OHP**

**Etude à haute résolution de la population de l'étoile pulsarée PSR 1509-58**

Le programme de recherche de la Haute-Provence



A newsletter (*La Lettre de l'OHP*), which appears now once a year, highlights some of the results obtained and presents future projects. It is available both electronically and on paper.

## "Open Door" days

The Observatory regularly holds "open doors" days, usually during national "Science Week." Visitors are allowed to visit several domes and technical buildings, are shown different exhibits, are given talks and can chat with staff members on a variety of topics.

## Press and TV coverage

Every possible opportunity is seized to present the observatory, its activities and some of the outstanding science results to the general public via newspaper articles and TV shows. In August 2002 the well-known TV show "La Nuit des Etoiles" will be broadcast from St.Michel l'Observatoire and will include interviews with astronomers on the OHP site.

