

## Visiting Mount Wilson Observatory FAQ

Sarah Rosalena: Standard Candle

**Directions:** From the 210 Freeway, follow the Angeles Crest Highway (State Highway 2) north out of La Canada Flintridge, past the Angeles Forest Highway turnoff to Palmdale, to the Mount Wilson turnoff at Red Box. This is about 14 miles from the 210 Freeway. Drive about 5 miles more to Mount Wilson. You will arrive at a small intersection near a number of transmitter towers. Follow the “Observatory” sign on the one-way road to the far right around the towers until you reach the Forest Service gate, which is the entrance to Skyline Park and the Observatory.

Be mindful of the narrow, winding road. Allow at least 45 minutes from La Cañada Flintridge to Mount Wilson.

**Parking:** The Forest Service requires that vehicles parking within the Angeles National Forest, which includes the parking lot, display a National Forest Adventure Pass or a Golden Age Passport. The Adventure Pass may be purchased for \$5 (one day) or \$30 (one year) at Clear Creek Ranger Station, many sporting goods stores, or at the Shell service station just south of the 210 Freeway on Angeles Crest Highway. Note that ranger stations are not open continuously (but the Shell station is). On open weekends, the passes may also be purchased at the Cosmic Café above the main parking lot. For more information visit the [US Forest Service website](#).

### **Please Note:**

-Cell reception is spotty or non-existent once you start up Angeles Crest Highway and at the Observatory.

-Be sure that you have enough gas for the trip to and from the Observatory—it’s a 40-mile round trip from the last gas station in La Cañada Flintridge.

-Mount Wilson Observatory has a lower and upper parking lot and there’s a 10-minute walk to the center of the Observatory. Be prepared to walk on trails and uneven terrain. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

-The mountain is about a mile high, so it is generally about 10 degrees cooler than the L.A. basin, and it can get chilly, especially at night. Bring a layer or two of outerwear.

-Be aware that it takes three flights of stairs to access the telescope observation deck of the 100-inch telescope. The telescope domes are not ADA compliant.