

Post-Conference Tour 2

A Special Voyage Across Japan's Planetariums by Shinkansen 27-29 June 2026

In June 2026, the International Planetarium Society (IPS) Conference will bring together professionals from around the world in Fukuoka.

To complement this global gathering, we are delighted to present a special post-conference tour across Japan—offering a rare opportunity to experience some of the country's most remarkable planetariums and science museums. From historic Zeiss projectors still in operation to cutting-edge immersive domes, this journey reveals the full spectrum of Japan's planetarium culture—while traveling in comfort aboard the Shinkansen. More than a tour, this is an opportunity to connect, exchange ideas, and experience the unique intersection of science, technology, and culture that defines Japan's approach to astronomy education.

Step beyond the conference and embark on a curated journey through Japan's most remarkable planetariums and science museums—connected by the precision and comfort of the Shinkansen. This exclusive post-conference tour is designed for professionals who seek not only to visit, but to deeply understand how planetarium culture in Japan has evolved—from its earliest optical heritage to today's cutting-edge immersive environments.

Visit the [official IPS 2026 website](https://www.ips2026fukuoka.com/html/travel/accommodation/)

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This tour is coordinated by Takeshi Inoue, Director of the Akashi Municipal Planetarium.

Day 1 – 27 June 2026

Akashi: The oldest operating planetarium in Asia

Your journey begins in **Akashi**, the city that defines Japan's standard time. At the Akashi Municipal Planetarium, located precisely on the 135° East meridian, you will explore a museum dedicated to the relationship between time and astronomy. Opened in 1960, the facility houses the Carl Zeiss UPP 23/3, making it the oldest planetarium in operation in Asia.



Akashi Municipal Planetarium

Please note:

The Akashi Municipal Planetarium is currently closed for renovation.

It will be specially opened exclusively for this tour.

This represents a **rare, one-time opportunity**—the only occasion during this period when the facility can be visited.

Here, participants will experience:

- A live planetarium program using a historic optical-mechanical projector
- Insights into the preservation and operation of legacy Zeiss systems
- The cultural significance of timekeeping in Japan

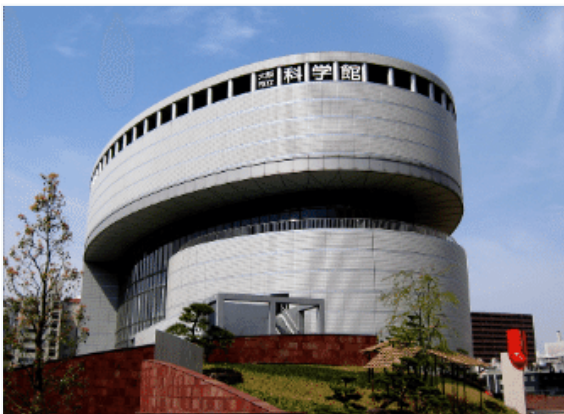
The day concludes with a networking reception overlooking the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge.



Day 2 – 28 June 2026

Osaka & Nagoya(1): From Origins to Innovation

In the morning, visit the **Osaka Science Museum**, a key institution in Japan's planetarium history. It was the first science museum in Japan to install a planetarium and still preserves its **Zeiss Model II projector**, representing the dawn of public astronomical education in the country.

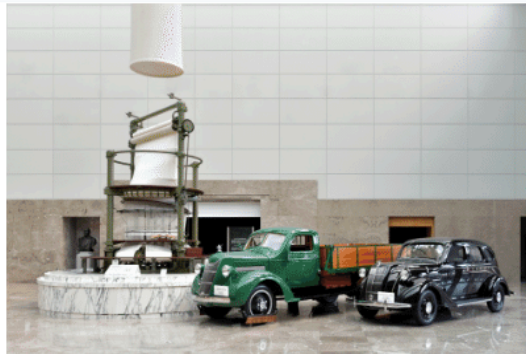


Osaka Science Museum

You will explore:

- Historical exhibition of early planetarium technology
- Fusion of optical systems and digital systems
- Modern full-dome programming by Konica Minolta

In the afternoon, travel to Nagoya and visit the **Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology**, where Japan's engineering philosophy—precision, craftsmanship, and continuous innovation—is brought to life.



Toyota

Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology

The day continues with a visit to the **MANTEN NAGOYA LED Dome (Konica Minolta)**, a next-generation planetarium utilizing LED-based projection technology.



Konica Minolta Planetarium Manten Nagoya (LED dome)

Highlights include:

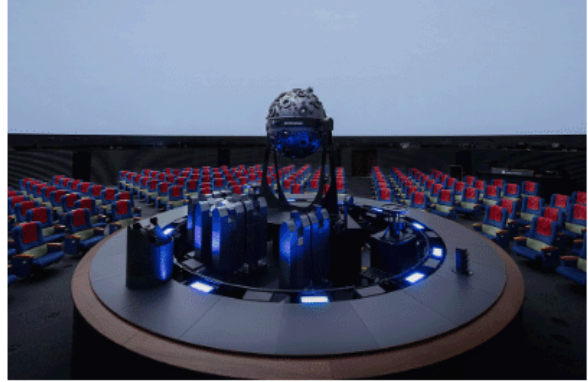
- Ultra-high contrast and brightness LED dome system
 - New approaches to immersive storytelling
 - Comparison with traditional projection methods
-



Day 3 – Nagoya(2): 29 June 2026

One of the World's Largest Domes

The tour culminates at the **Nagoya City Science Museum**, home to one of the largest planetarium domes in the world (35 meters in diameter).



Nagoya City Science Museum

Its hybrid system combines:

- Carl Zeiss Universarium Model IX
- Advanced digital projection systems

Participants will gain:

- Insights into large-scale dome operation and programming
- Understanding of hybrid projection system design
- Opportunities for discussion with experts



Why This Tour Is Unique

- Visit **three generations of Zeiss planetarium technology** (Model II, UPP 23/3, Universarium IX)
- Experience both **optical heritage and cutting-edge LED/digital systems**
- Gain access to a **normally closed facility, opened exclusively for this tour**
- Travel efficiently across Japan via the **Shinkansen network**
- Explore the intersection of **astronomy, engineering, and cultural context**



If conditions are favorable, you may be able to see Mt. Fuji from the Shinkansen while traveling from Nagoya to Tokyo!

✨ Join This Journey

This is more than a technical tour—it is an immersive experience into how Japan has shaped and continues to redefine the planetarium. The tour concludes in Tokyo, a major transportation hub with excellent access to international travel. Participants who wish to extend their stay may also have the opportunity to visit additional planetariums and related facilities in the Tokyo area.

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit a historic planetarium—opened exclusively for IPS participants.