

Request form for a "Guided Tour of the VLA"

Request must be received three weeks in advance of your desired tour date

E-mail: < jstanley@nrao.edu > Fax 575.835.7027 or snail mail the completed form to:

Judy Stanley P.O. Box O Socorro, NM 87801 /575.835.7243 office / 505.515.5780 cell/

Guided tours of the VLA take approximately one and a half hours and are organized in groups of 30 or so people. For larger groups please contact Judy Stanley by phone. VLA Guided Tours begin in the Auditorium of the VLA Visitor Center with a ten minute briefing. Next is a short walk thru the VLA Visitor Center Exhibit Area. Next, is a visit to VLA Operations Center inside the Control Building.

Tour groups are invited to go outside for a quarter mile walking tour complete with beautiful, full color signage explaining the VLA, outdoor exhibits; the "Whisper Dish Gallery", and "Radio Sundial" plus a close up view of a working antenna on the array! Please plan for time to visit the VLA Gift Shop and take in the 23 minute movie titled: "Beyond the Visible; The Story of the VLA".

Please fill out the VLA Guided Tour Request Form below if you wish to schedule a Guided Tour.

VLA Guided Tour Request Form

Today's date: _____ Date of requested tour: _____

Group Organization, Name, Affiliation, Address:

Contact person's name, work, cell phone numbers, e-mail and other useful contact info:

Number of students, their age range, and grade level(s):

Number of Adults, Instructors, & Chaperons that will accompany the group:

Departure Point Date and Time:

Arrival Date and Time at VLA Visitor Center:

Estimated Departure Time from the VLA:

Objectives, goals, area of study, and pre-VLA Tour preparation your group will participate in:

Special details or needs for your group:

*NOTE: All visitor areas are wheelchair assessable. The walking path is about one quarter mile in length. This trail is a level, pea gravel trail. The VLA is at 7,000.ft. Prepare for extreme weather conditions year round. There is NO food service at the VLA. We do have two shaded, outdoor picnic areas for visitor use.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

We DO NOT allow cell phones and other types of personal electronic devices to be used at the VLA site. All cell phones and other such devices must be turned OFF. Digital and film Cameras ARE ALLOWED. Visitors may take pictures of anything they wish inside and outside of the buildings from the designated visitor path.

The Antenna Assembly Building, the tallest structure at the VLA Site, is located one eighth mile west of the VLA Visitor Center. The Antenna Assembly Building (AAB) is a self guided tour that we recommend to everyone. Normally there is an antenna inside the building that will be visible from the AAB Tour parking area, and the VLA Transporters are usually parked nearby. Follow the white signs that say "AAB Tour". This self guided tour will take approximately 15 minutes.

On the day of your tour PLEASE REMEMBER: Your tour guide will be waiting for you at the VLA Visitor Center. If you are more than 30 minutes late the tour guide will be forced to cancel your guided tour. If you encounter an emergency the day of your tour please call the VLA Gift Shop at 575.835.7410. The Gift Shop Clerk will be able to deliver your message to the tour guide. If you must cancel your guided tour, please do so 48 hours in advance of the scheduled time.