

NightLife

Every Thursday night, music, creatures and cocktails come together for NightLife at the California Academy of Sciences. Explore exhibits and aquarium displays while sipping creative cocktails, and let exotic animals from around the world transport you to the tropics, Tibet, and dozens of other remote destinations. Special planetarium shows will take you even farther afield. Each week features a live band or DJ, and a unique theme – from salsa dancing to sustainable seafood and beyond. 21+

This Week

Connect With Us

VIP Tour & Private Lounge



Gems Rock NightLife

Join scientists and jewelers for a unique look at how humankind has been turning natural materials into tools, weapons and decorative objects over the millennia. Covet the rare finds in the Academy's Gem & Mineral Vault, watch as members of the San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society demonstrate gem cutting and jewelry making techniques, and check out some stunning examples of Native American jewelry in the Academy's Evolving Traditions exhibit. The Academy's geology and anthropology collections managers will bring out specimens to illustrate what makes these substances so valuable to societies around the world, and how their usage has evolved over the generations. In the planetarium, a special *Voyage to the Sun* presentation at 6:30 will delve into how meteorites have become prized objects throughout human history, followed by *Life: A Cosmic Story* at 7:30 and 8:30. Music by DJ Omar.



Event Schedule

6-10pm DJ Omar/ East Pavilion

6:30-8:30pm San Francisco Gem and Mineral Society Demonstrations/ African Hall

6:30-8:30pm Gems, Minerals & Native American Treasures / Project Lab (main floor near rainforest)

6:30pm Voyage to the Sun/ Planetarium

7:30 & 8:30pm *Life: A Cosmic Story*/ Planetarium

8pm, 8:20pm, 8:40pm & 9pm Gems & Minerals Vault – *Limited capacity. Passes distributed on a first-come, first-served basis*/ Swamp Lobby (near albino alligator)



Planetarium

Enjoy the following planetarium shows this week at NightLife:

Science Tonight: LIVE @ 6:30pm

[Voyage to the Sun: How the Egyptians retrieved solid sunlight for Tutankhamen's tomb](#)

6:30pm

This presentation unravels one of the last mysteries of Tutankhamen's tomb by explaining how the Egyptians of his dynasty obtained a piece of glass created by a colossal meteorite impact or unique ejection from the planet's core from a zone that had already become the closest thing to Mars on Earth. A place so hostile that



become the closest thing to Mars on Earth. A place so hostile that they couldn't reach it even if they had camels. Which they didn't: all the ancient Egyptians had was donkeys. Nobody has ever been able to explain – and prove – how Tut's jewelers obtained the world's purest natural glass that they used to make the scarab in the middle of one of his breastplates – glass so strange that it is filled with nano-diamonds, iridium, stishovite and other apparent evidence of a meteoritic collision. Until now.

The lecture revealed the discoveries of an expedition in March 2006 that sought to answer the enigma – an expedition that bore its ultimate fruit only when it became stranded without fuel or water during a solar eclipse, allowing the team one last opportunity to prospect for an archaeological site that might provide the missing link, while hoping for rescue.

The presentation unveiled two major discoveries.

First, of prehistoric tool factories that specialized in making Libyan Desert Glass tools on such an industrialized scale during the Holocene Wet Phase (12,500–5,300 cal. B.C.E.), that they had to be exporting their products over a much larger zone than the one where the glass occurs naturally.

And, two, the discovery of a series of prehistoric sites covered with glass tools, which were exported beyond the glass's natural distribution during the Sahara's wet phases – including an eight-to-ten-thousand-year-old site, over 250 miles from the "factories", at a pigment quarry where an expedition from Tut's time (the late 18th Dynasty) left its characteristic shards.

In other words, the expedition proved that Tut's prospectors could have found the glass, which his jewelers used to make the sun symbol that they put on the solar plexus of their living god, on a site that was already thousands of years old. In doing so, the expedition also revealed one of the reasons that the Egyptians were struggling to penetrate the desert against great odds with donkey caravans – they were searching for and scouring prehistoric sites for a material so rare and strange that they believed it was solidified sunlight itself.

On a less sexy note, the expedition's discovery of Aterian, Mesolithic, pre-ceramic Neolithic and mid-Neolithic anthropic glass sites hundreds of kilometers outside the natural zone shows that long-range exchange and distribution systems for the exotic material sprang up both during the Holocene Wet Phase and the Aterian tradition, which lasted from 80,000 to 30,000 years ago.

Presentation by Duncan Caldwell

Photo: D. Caldwell, K. Compton & S. Schwab mapping a Holocene Wet Phase Desert Glass tool factory

Life: A Cosmic Story

7:30pm & 8:30pm

Facebook Fans

Become a fan of [NightLife](#) on Facebook. Share your comments and experiences and get the latest updates.



The screenshot shows three posts from the Facebook page 'NightLife @ the California Academy of Sciences'. The first post is a 'Like' button. The second post is a text announcement: 'Don't miss LIVE 105 KITS SAN FRANCISCO LIVE105.COM's Miles The DJ down in the Aquarium this week. His song selection boasts a unique mix of Soul, Indie Rock, Electro, 80s music, and beyond.' The third post is a photo of a DJ with the text: 'This Week in the Aquarium: Miles the DJ www.calacademy.org Exploring, explaining and protecting'.

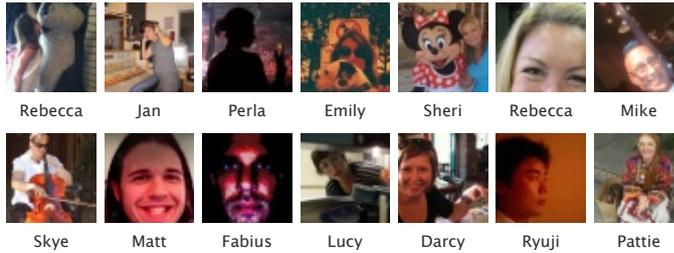


Exploring, explaining and protecting the natural world. Since 1853.

15 hours ago

NightLife @ the California Academy of Sciences

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Twitter

Follow [NightLife](#) on Twitter. Mention California Academy of Sciences or just tag your tweets **#calacademy** and we will share them here.

What everyone is Twittering right now...

- **Zombies (and me!) at the California Academy of Sciences NightLife!** <http://t.co/EXJ97BXu> 1 hour ago
- RT @bradleyvoytek: Come see me talk zombie brains at California Academy of Science NightLife Oct 27! <http://t.co/a6xZh6Dt> (@calacademy_nl& @calacademy) 2 hours ago
- RT @Ustream: Penguin feeding time at the California Academy of Sciences! Nom nom nom... <http://t.co/bMaWjSPV><http://t.co/WZymFYDC> 2 hours ago
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NightLife VIP Tour

Want an entirely different NightLife experience? Join us on our NightLife VIP Tour. Tickets include admission to NightLife, a one-hour behind-the-scenes tour with a private viewing of the Academy's renowned gem and mineral collection and interaction with Academy researchers in the lab, express entry into the building, an open bar in a reserved cocktail area prior to the tour, VIP access to the Rainforest, and a reserved pass for the 8:30 Planetarium show.

\$59.00/person – limited tickets available each week

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm (building closes at 10:00 pm)

For more information, please click [here](#).



NightLife Private Lounge

Looking for a great space to celebrate landing that big account, throw a birthday party, or just gather with all your old friends, all while enjoying San Francisco's most exciting Thursday night event? Rent out the NightLife Private Lounge. You'll get early access to a premium private room with catering and bar service and access to our Thursday NightLife event. For more booking information contact Dan Kalin at (415) 379-5837 or dkalin@calacademy.org.

