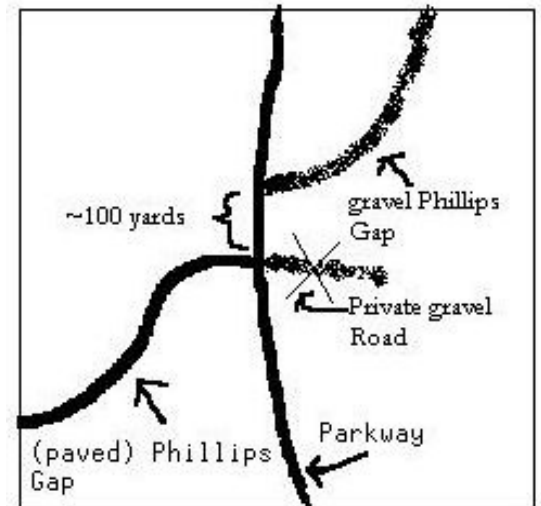


Directions and Map

Directions. to DSO:

Take highway US 421 toward Deep Gap, which is about 10 miles east of Boone. At Deep Gap, just east of the overpass, you get on the Blue Ridge Parkway to get to DSO. (If there are Parkway problems you can take US 221 to Idlewild, and then on to Phillips Gap Road--this route is also shown on the map).

Get on the Blue Ridge Parkway going north. You will drive about 7 miles until you turn right on Phillips Gap Road, which crosses the Parkway between the 269 and 270 mile markers. It is paved on the left and gravel on the right--the gravel road is ***NOT*** the one immediately across from the paved side, but is about a hundred yards on down the Parkway and is marked with its name on the post of the Stop sign (see sketch at right →).



Travel about 1.5 miles on the (gravel) Phillips Gap Road until you come to Observatory Road on the left--it is marked with a green state road sign (Google Maps also knows about Observatory Road). There is a large observatory sign just before our gate on Observatory Rd. If you arrive too early the gate may still be locked.

At the Observatory:

After you drive past the Lowe's House Observers' Quarters on your left, staff and student assistants will direct you where to park.

Return Trip Directions:

Drive out our road (Observatory Rd.) and turn right onto the gravel Phillips Gap Road. Drive about 1.5 miles until you reach the stop sign. Turn left onto the Parkway and then drive about 7 miles until you exit onto 421 at the first exit, at Deep Gap.

Visit Notes

Astronomical domes are not heated so you should be dressed appropriately. All of the roads and walkways, except for the handicapped parking area, are gravel or grass + dirt, so you should have appropriate, comfortable shoes. You may want to bring a flashlight of your own. There is a bathroom in the Lowe's House Observers' Quarters.

