



Astrotourism and Beyond

Kenya's Equatorial Gateway to the Stars

UoN AstroNight 11/10/2024

Bastian Blankenburg

- Amateur astronomer and astrophotographer
- PhD in CS (multi-agent systems)
- Blockchain sceptic and enthusiast
- Co-founder & CTO of UTU



Purpose: Think Biggest!

M31 Andromeda
Galaxy + Satellites

Outline



1. Kenyan Astronomical Organisations and Activities

2. Personal Initiatives

1. Skywatching Events (including outreach)

2. Workshops

3. Astrophotography Examples

3. Kenya's Equatorial Advantage

1. Potential for Astrotourism

2. Launch Pads

3. Space Elevator

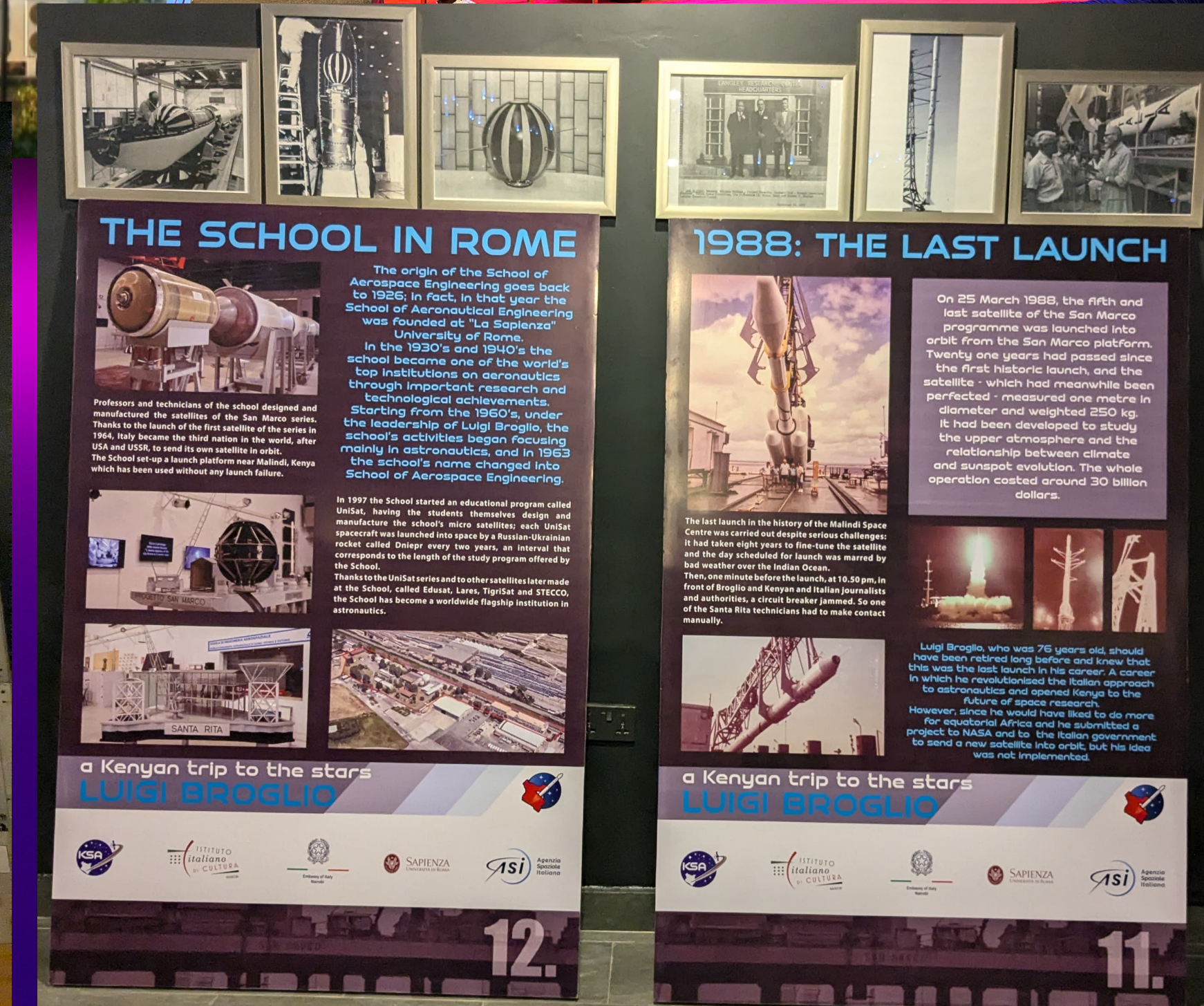
Kenyan Astronomical Organisations and Activities

A nighttime photograph of a cityscape, likely Nairobi, Kenya, viewed from an elevated position. The city lights are visible in the lower half of the frame, with a prominent skyscraper illuminated. The sky is dark blue and black, with a single bright star or planet visible in the upper left quadrant. The text 'Kenyan Astronomical Organisations and Activities' is overlaid in white, serif font across the upper portion of the image.

Kenyan Astronomical Organisations and Activities (1)

(not exhaustive)

- Kenya Space Agency (KSA)
- National space policies and programs.
- Many partners in industry, NGOs, startups, foreign space agencies.
- Events: Space Expo, ecosystem meet-ups.
- Malindi Space Centre
- Space Museum



Kenyan Astronomical Organisations and Activities (2)

(not exhaustive)

- Universities / Science orgs
- Astrophysics and related bachelor and master programs at UoN, TUK, others?
- Rocket development by Nakuja project at JKUAT.
- Kenya Optical Telescope Initiative



Kenyan Astronomical Organisations and Activities (3)

(not exhaustive)

- Orgs doing Outreach, Education, Skywatching Events



- Leo Sky, Travelling Telescope, <https://night.ke>

- Societies, Communities

- Kenya Space Society
- [DarkSky.org](https://www.darksite.org/) and its working groups
- SkyWatch Society
- Amateur Astronomer Society of Kenya



ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY, GENERAL

My God, It's Full of Stars

Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep? Job 38:16 (NIV) After some busy weeks — work (watch out for an update on the UTU Blog on Monday), a conference, a bad...

BASTIAN / 29 SEPTEMBER 2024 / 2 COMMENTS



ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY

In the Pale Moonlight

Last week, we went to Diani Beach for a few days. Apart from all its other attractions, the coast can be quite good in terms of darker skies, though it might often be humid and a little hazy. It was...

BASTIAN / 25 AUGUST 2024 / 6 COMMENTS

GENERAL

Welcome to the Kenyan Night Skies

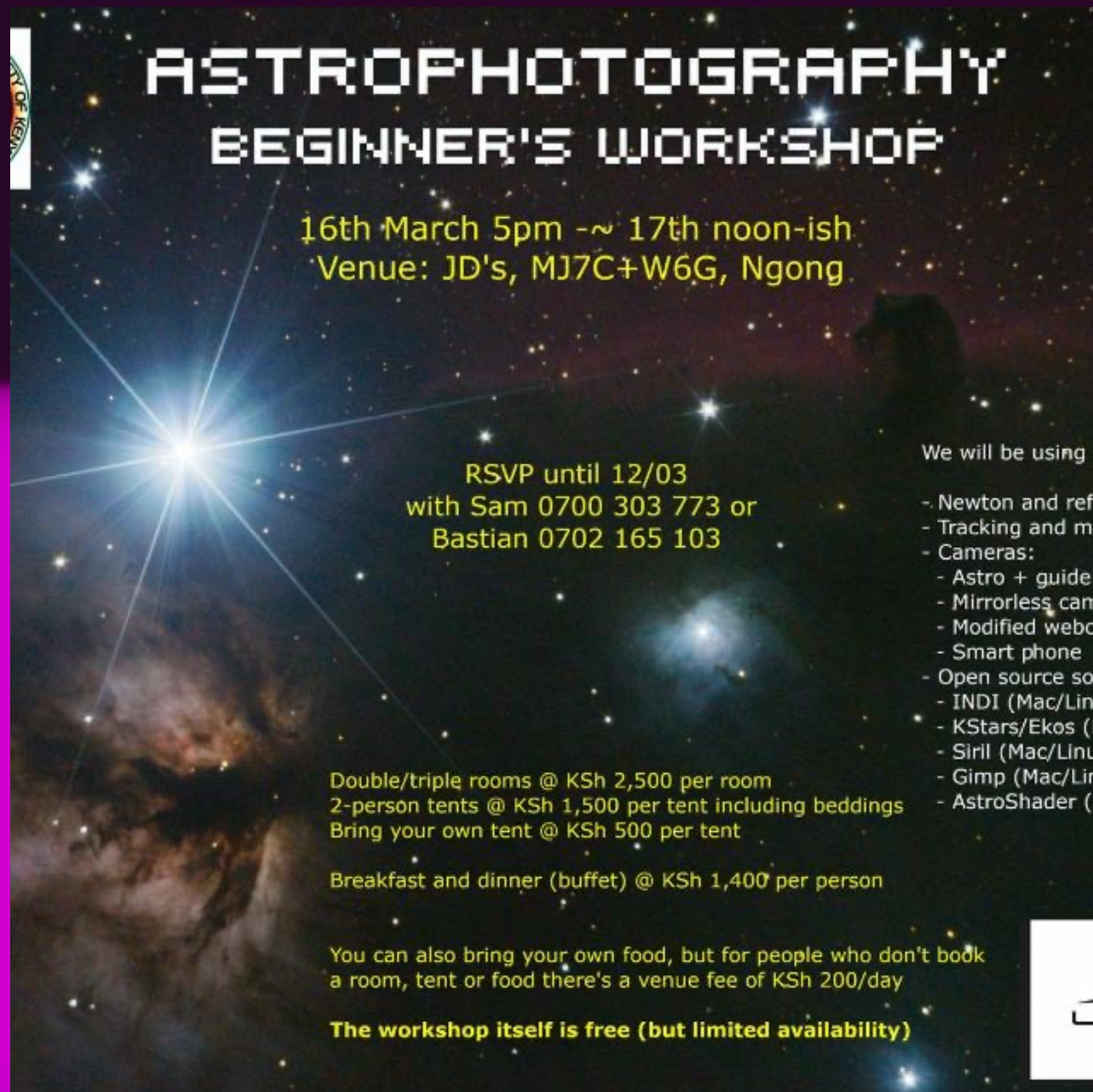


Personal Initiatives

Skywatching Events



Workshops



ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY BEGINNER'S WORKSHOP

16th March 5pm ~ 17th noon-ish
Venue: JD's, MJ7C+W6G, Ngong

RSVP until 12/03
with Sam 0700 303 773 or
Bastian 0702 165 103

We will be using (

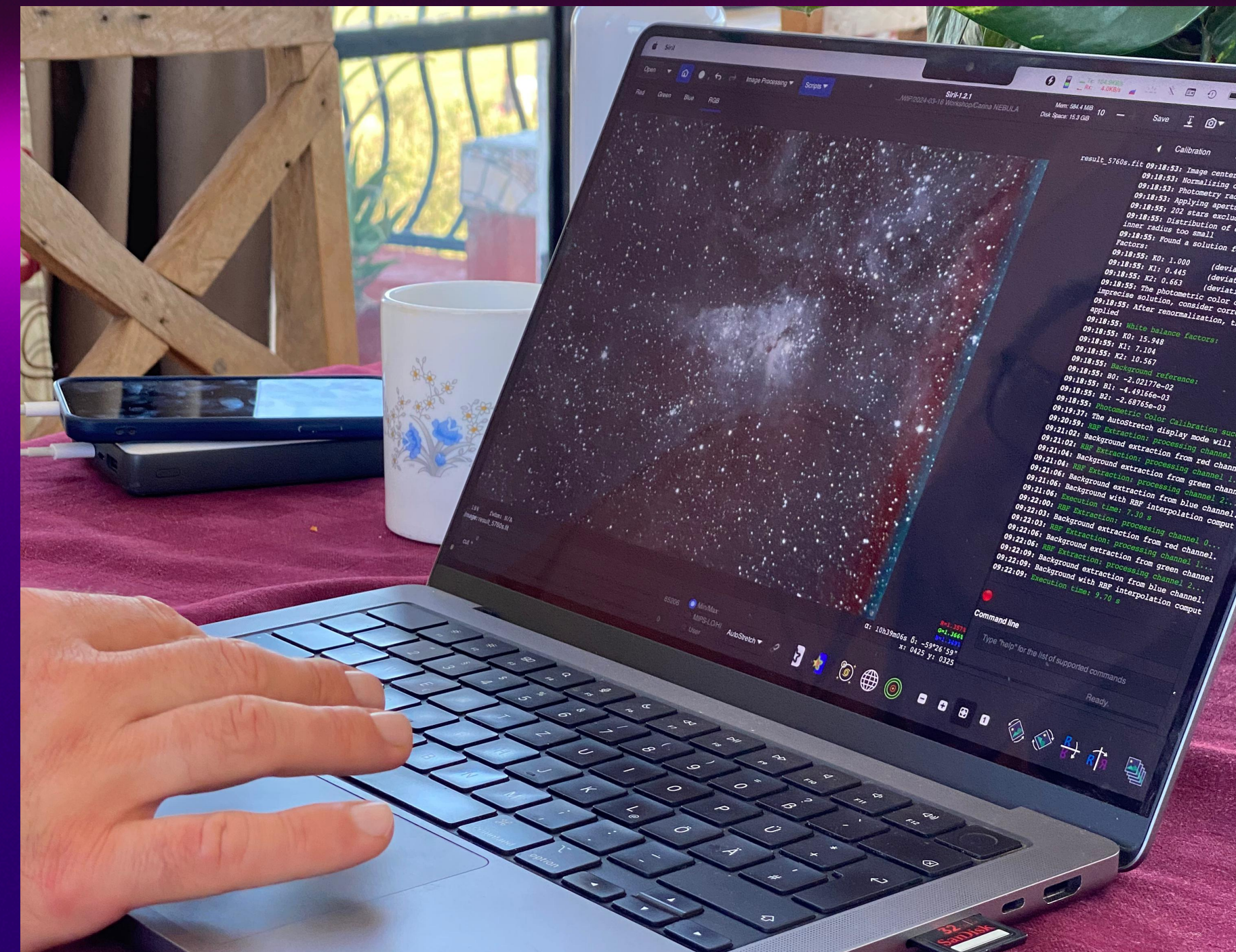
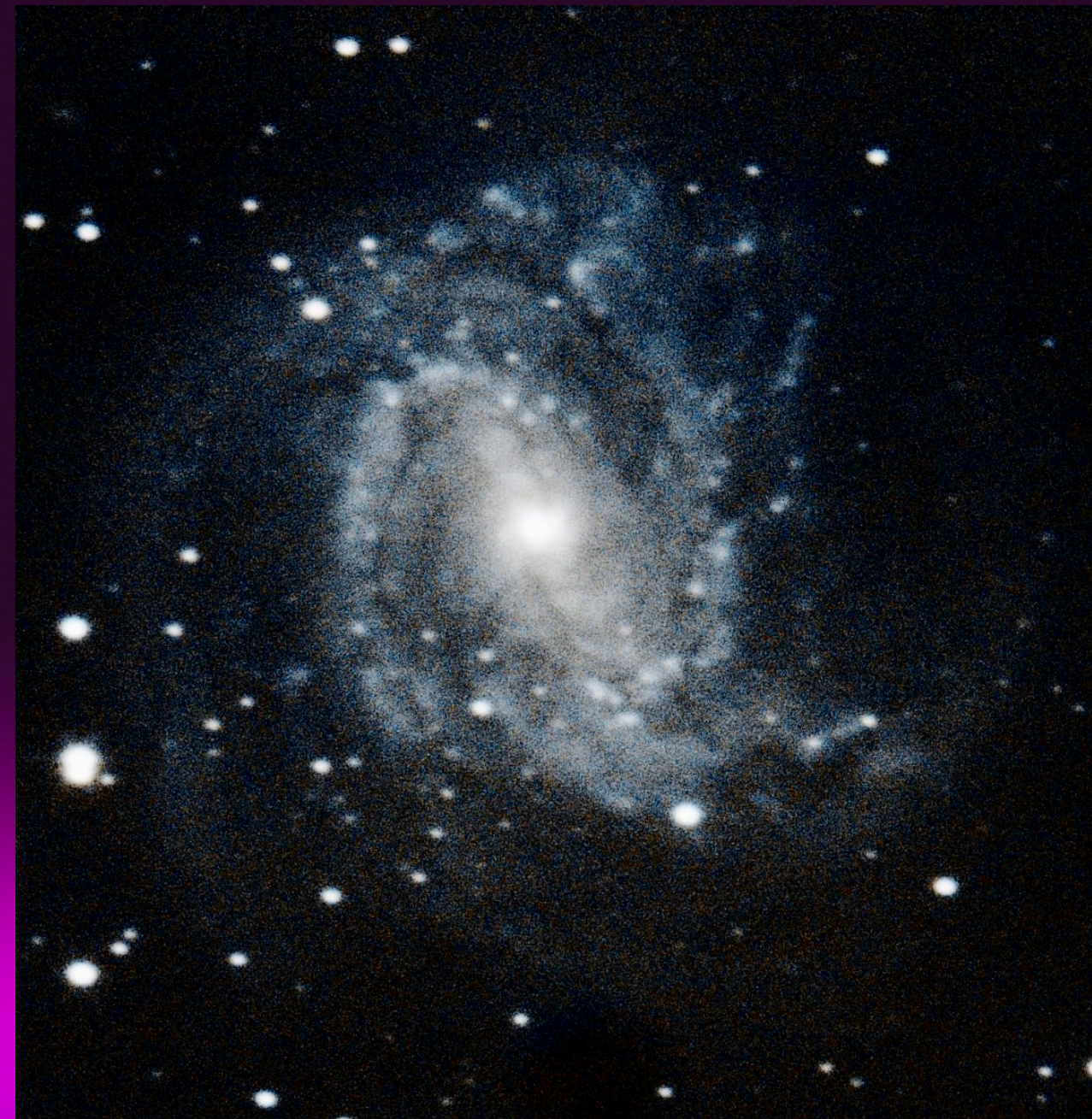
- Newton and refr
- Tracking and ma
- Cameras:
- Astro + guide c
- Mirrorless cam
- Modified webca
- Smart phone
- Open source sof
- INDI (Mac/Linu
- KStars/Ekos (M
- Sirl (Mac/Linu
- Gimp (Mac/Lin
- AstroShader (i

Double/triple rooms @ KSh 2,500 per room
2-person tents @ KSh 1,500 per tent including beddings
Bring your own tent @ KSh 500 per tent

Breakfast and dinner (buffet) @ KSh 1,400 per person

You can also bring your own food, but for people who don't book a room, tent or food there's a venue fee of KSh 200/day

The workshop itself is free (but limited availability)



Astrophotography

Telescope + Mirrorless Camera



M42 - Orion Nebula
and neighbours

Astrophotography

Telescope + Mirrorless Camera



M20 -Trifid Nebula

Astrophotography

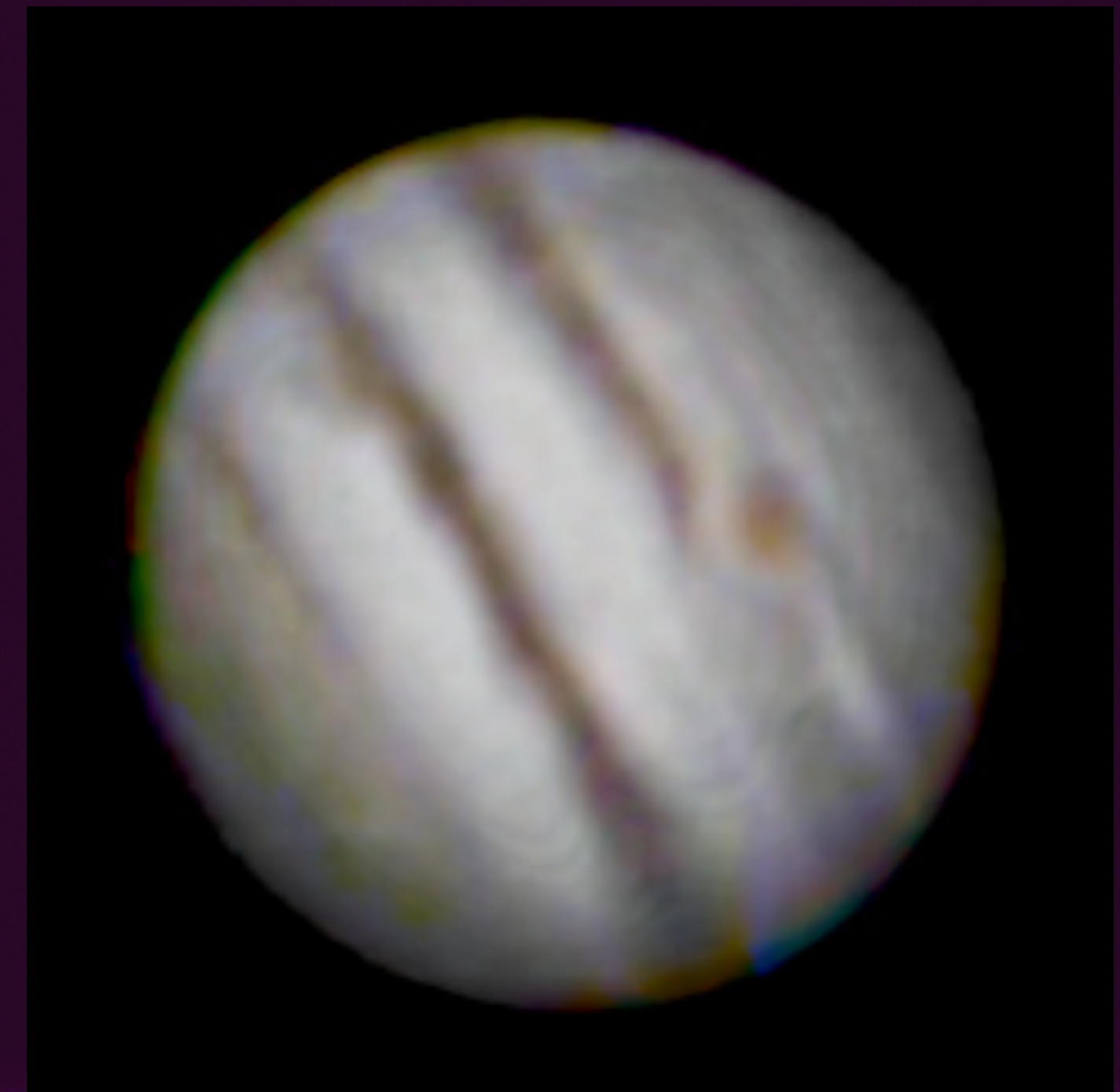
Telescope + Mirrorless Camera

NGC 3628, M65, M66 Leo Triplet

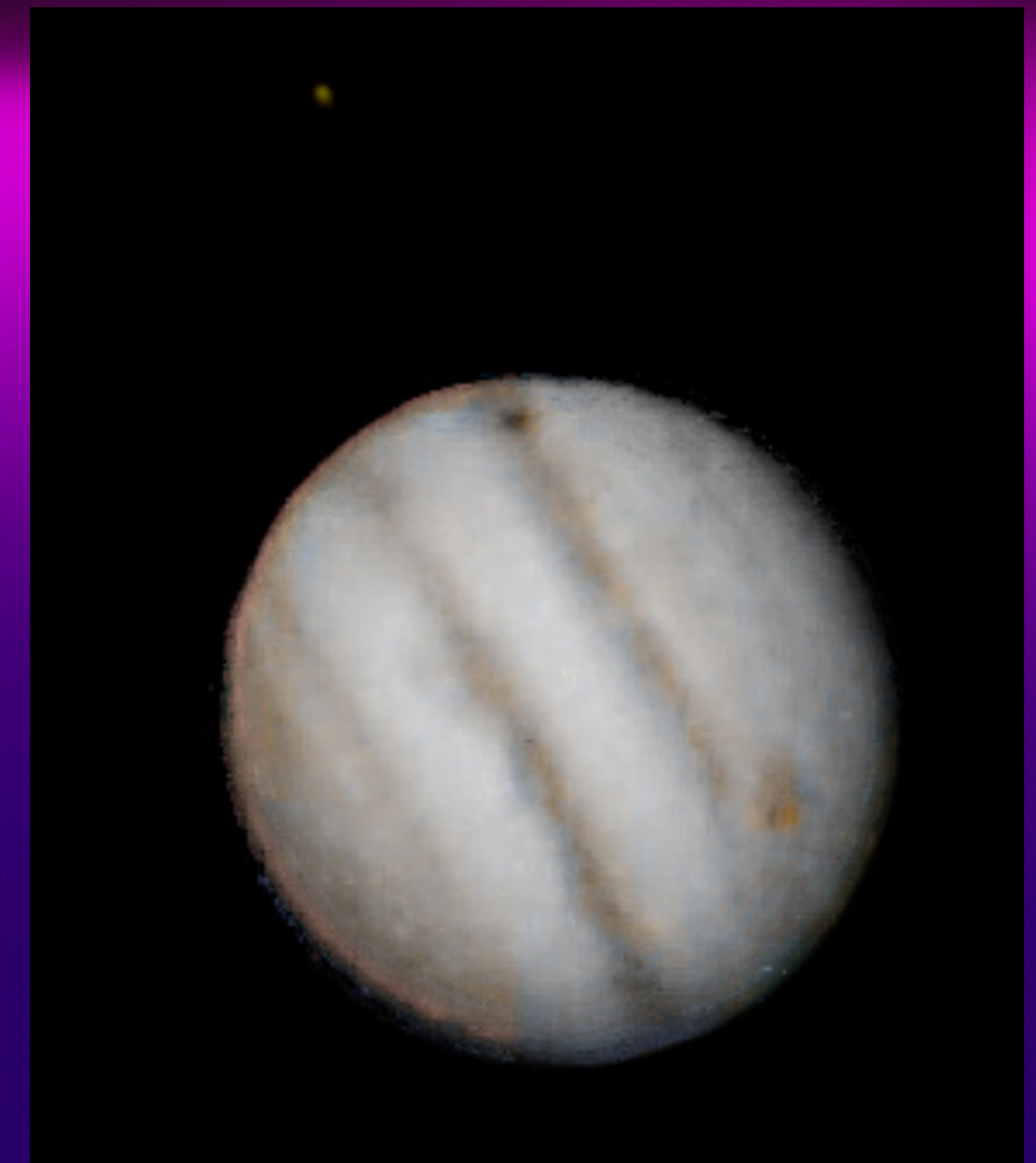
Astrophotography

Telescope + Modified Webcam (and some plumbing)

Jupiter



with
Io



Astrophotography

Telescope + Smartphone



M31 Andromeda
Galaxy + Satellites

Astrophotography

Smartphone Only



Central Milky Way



Southern Cross on Shags

Astrophotography

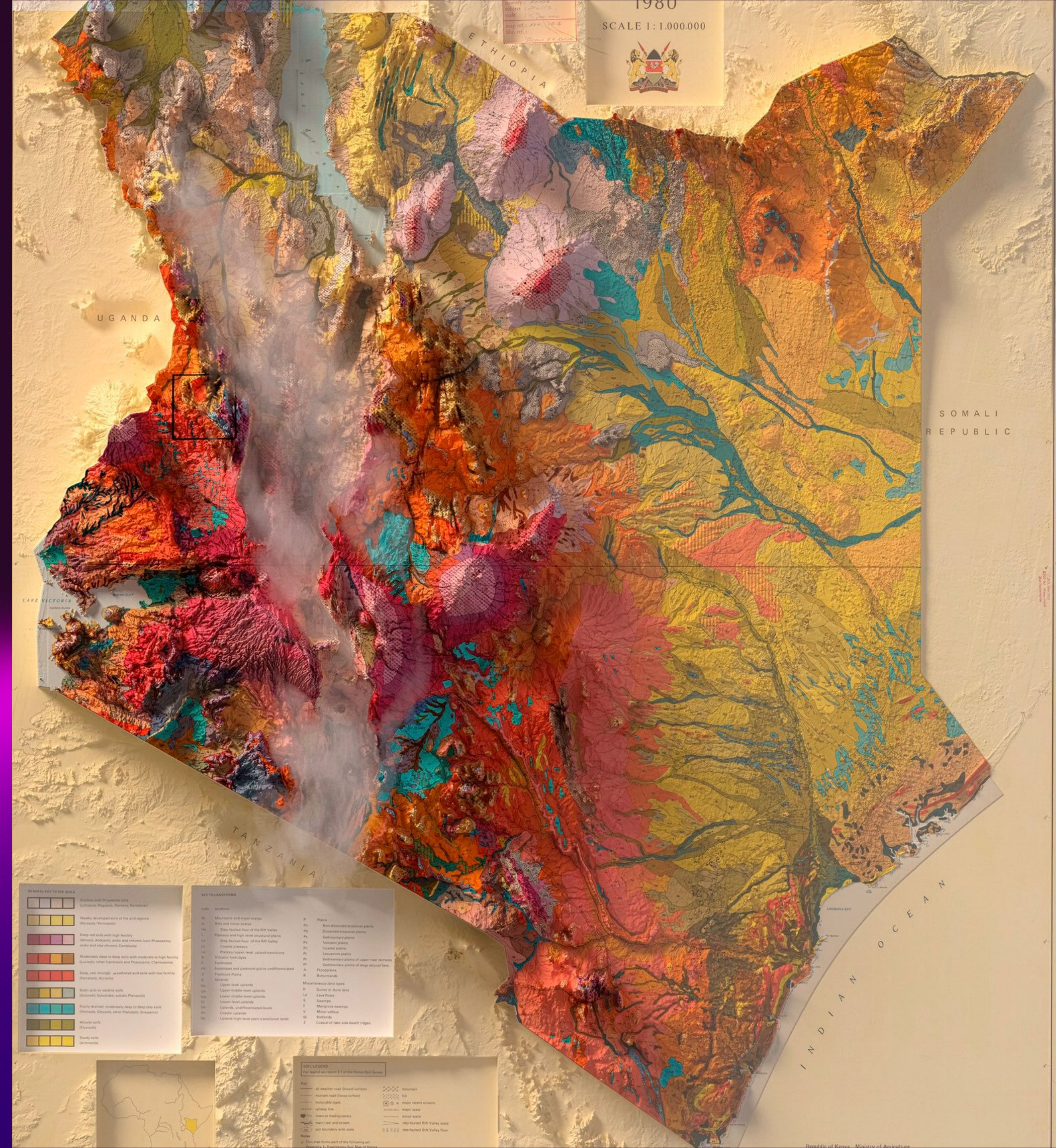
Smartphone on Binoculars



Kenya's Equatorial Advantage



- Kenya
- On the equator
- Large parts at high altitudes
- High mountains
- Arid climate
- Good infrastructure (comparatively)



Potential for Astrotourism

Where's the Kenyan Option?

Astro farm "Hacienda Los Andes", Rio Hurtado, Chile

Home » Chile Info » Destinations » Accommodation » Transportation » Tours & Trips » Other »

Search (+Enter)

Discover Chile
in a Camper / Motorhome

Rent a Car in Chile

Learn Spanish in Chile

Hacienda Los Andes, Vado de Morrillos s/n, Río Hurtado, Coquimbo region, Chile

Astro farm "Hacienda Los Andes", Rio Hurtado, Chile



PLANNING A TRIP TO NAMIBIA?

KIRIPOTIB IS THE PERFECT DESTINATION FOR ASTRONOMERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Welcome to AstroFarm

ASTRO-TOURISM & ASTRO-HOSTING

We are an astronomy tourism and telescope hosting site situated on the island of **La Palma** in the **Canary Islands**.

27 SEPTEMBER 2024 | HITS: 270

New astro-tourism strategy promotes scientific advancement and South Africa's natural beauty

Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Prof. Blade Nzimande, and Minister of Tourism, Ms Patricia de Lille, will launch the Astro-Tourism Strategy tomorrow on World Tourism Day. The Strategy was recently approved by the Cabinet.

The launch will take place in Carnarvon, Northern Cape. The Province is set to become the hub of Astro tourism in South Africa in a unique initiative that will position the province as the Kingdom of the Stars.

Launch Pads

Scotty, shoot me up



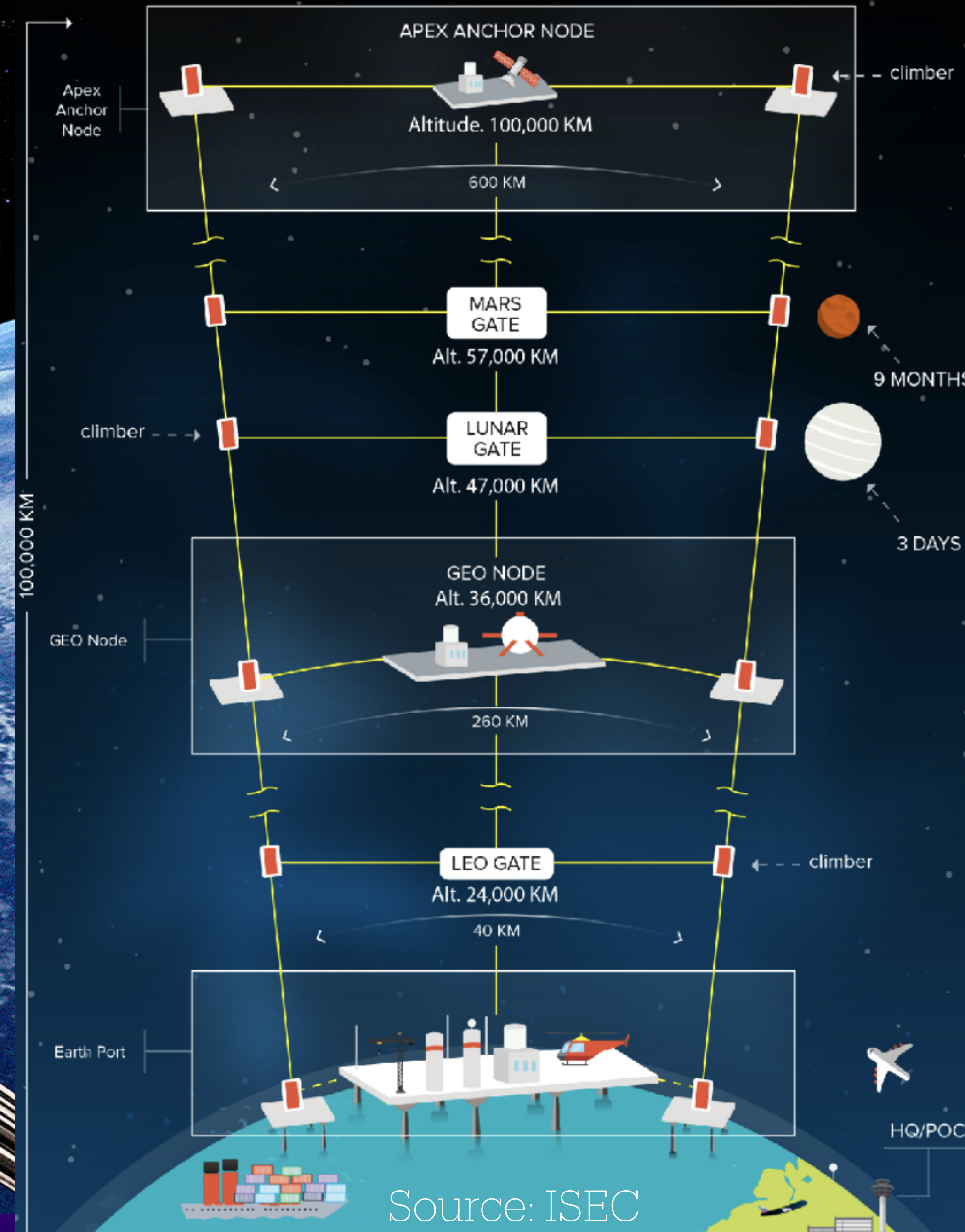
KSA, others are thinking and working on that



Space Elevator

Scotty, drive me up

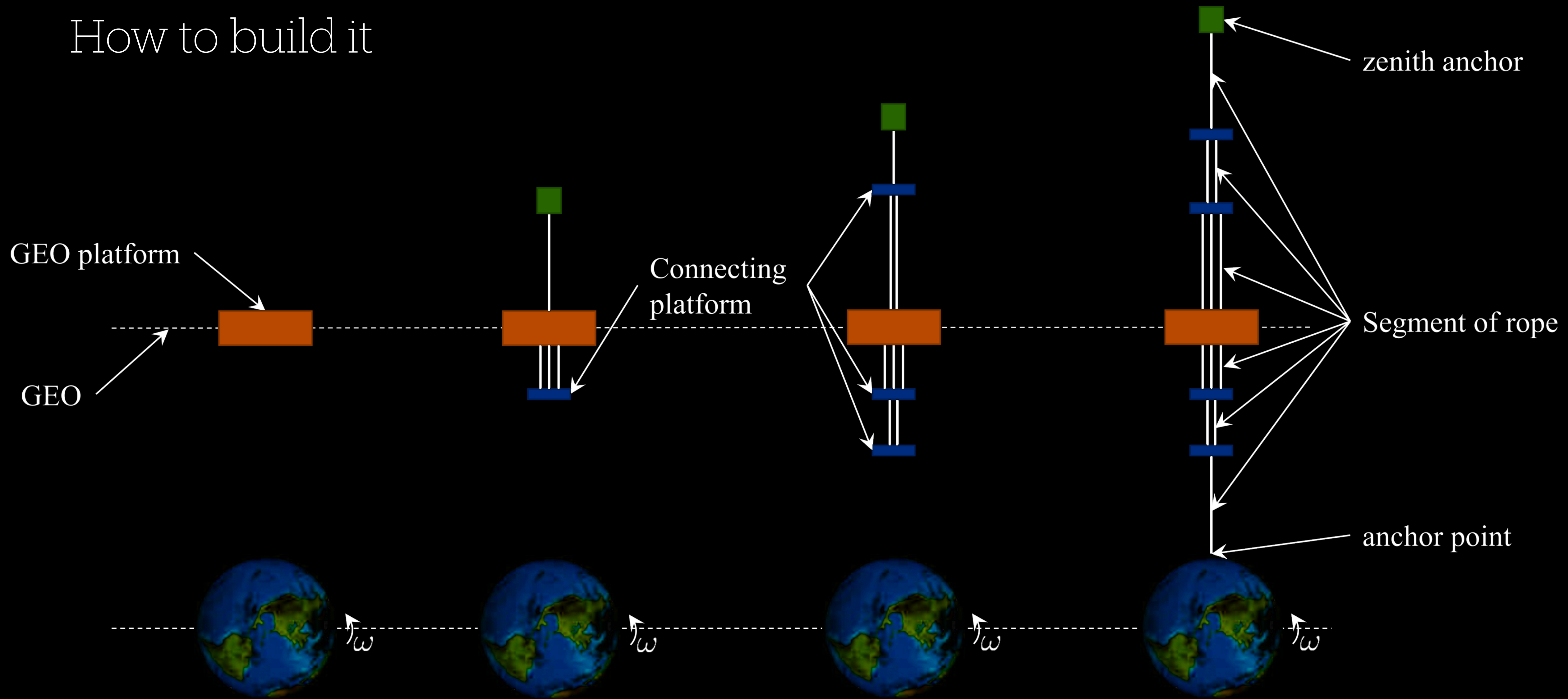
GALACTIC HARBOUR



Source: ISEC

Space Elevator

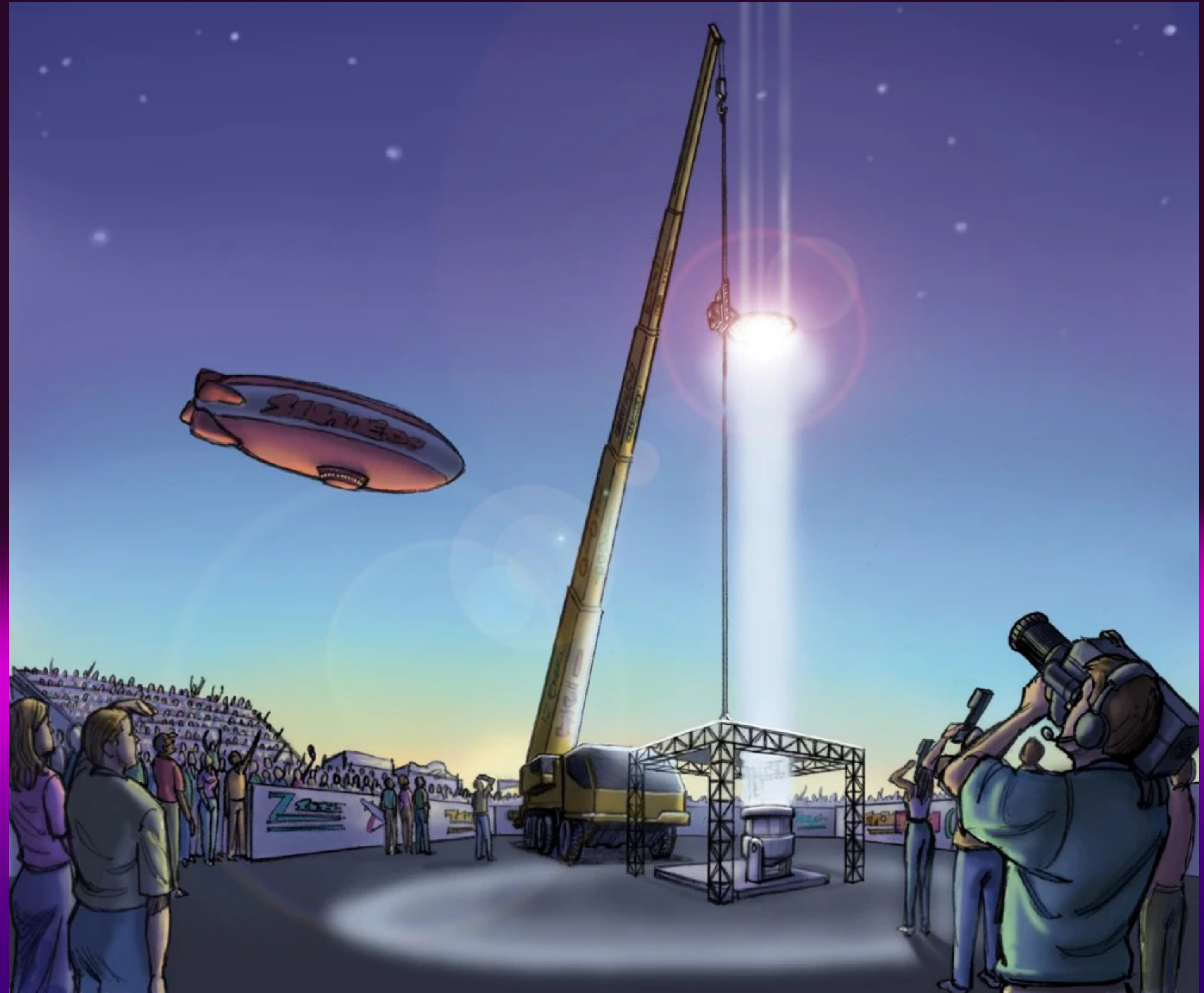
How to build it



Space Elevator

Challenges / Competitions

- International Competitions:
 - NSS Co-Sponsors Space Elevator Academic Challenge 2025
 - <https://warr.de/projekte/euspec/>
- In Kenya? — I've suggested to KSA, TheTechChallenge



Thank You!

Connect:

- <https://night.ke>
- dark@night.ke
- @databu (X, Instagram, Telegram)
- Kenya Space Society:
<https://linktr.ee/kenyaspaceociety>

M33 Triangulum Galaxy

