



Michael G. Albrecht

Enrichment Speaker

Tour of the Universe Slide Presentations
Science, History, Travel, Nature

Cruise Ships
Retirement Communities
National and State Park Systems
Schools and Public Spaces

Well-researched, lively, intellectually-engaging
45-60 minute presentations
All equipment provided as needed

<https://touroftheuniverse.com/>
mike@touroftheuniverse.com

Greater Austin, Texas, USA
512-497-2803

Show Title and Description List
2026 – 2027

<i>21st Century Space Age and Space Tourism</i>	Representing the dawn of a dramatic new Space Age, this presentation examines private entrepreneurial companies such as SpaceX, Blue Horizon, and many others that are partnering with – and pressing – NASA and the European Space Agency to expand human presence and exploration farther into the solar system.
<i>AI Data Centers Enter the Grid - Tap into Sunlight and Wind Power</i>	As data centers buzz with a tsunami of artificial intelligence (AI), digital economy, gaming, and social media traffic, straining an aging electric grid, center operators turn to renewable energy and the Internet of Things to modernize this vital infrastructure.
<i>Alaska's Tongass National Forest</i>	Known as the Salmon Forest, the Tongass supports dense, magnificent ecosystems of flora and fauna sprawling along the SE Alaskan and Canadian coastlines. This presentation provides a survey of this spectacular glacial and forested region.
<i>Andalusian Spain – Arabic Moors Establish Golden Age of Science and Culture in Hispania</i>	Crossing the Strait of Gibraltar in the early 8 th century, as the rest of Europe languished in the Middle Ages, energized Arabic Moors from Northern Africa conquered and settled what had been old Roman Hispania, establishing a 700-year dynasty of advanced science and flourishing culture.
<i>Arctic Exploration Surveyed</i>	Sailing in the pathways of the great polar explorers, including Nansen, Amundsen, and the ill-fated Franklin Expedition of the 1840s, this presentation transports audiences into the icy high latitudes of polar voyaging through the centuries.
<i>Astronomy – Great Galaxies and Light Streams</i>	Extend your mind's eye deep into the cosmos with spectacular images of galaxies and stars. Gathered by the Hubble Space Telescope, the new James Webb and Nancy Grace Roman space telescopes, these images and commentary help us understand the role information-rich light from stars plays in unraveling the mysteries of the universe.
<i>Astronomy – Inside Our Teaming Milky Way Galaxy</i>	Examine dazzling star formation and evolution throughout the Milky Way and cosmos. Learn how massive hydrogen clouds known as nebulae produce stars, and how stars in turn fuse protons in their core into the heavier chemical elements found on the Periodic Table that form next-generation solar systems and, under the right conditions, life.
<i>Big Bend National Park of Far West Texas</i>	Whether a geologists' paradise or nightmare, the Big Bend region of far southwest Texas stands as a magnificent, relatively unknown gem in American national parks system.

<i>Boston and Massachusetts - History to Present</i>	A sweeping history of one of America's vibrant historical cities.
<i>Climate Change Explored</i>	Using NASA, NOAA, and ESA satellite imagery – and highlighting reports by the U.S. military, insurance companies, and global investment firms – this presentation examines warming atmospheric and oceanic conditions that are triggering dramatic and expensive changes in weather patterns. Alternative energy and policy solutions examined.
<i>Costa Rica – Pacific Coastline</i>	Tour magnificent Pacific beaches and surrounding forests rich with plant and animal biodiversity. Discussion includes Costa Rican history and emergence as one of the world's cleanest energy producers.
<i>Evolving Electric Grid - Foundation of Modern Civilization</i>	Tracing the steps from Michael Faraday's first electromagnetic generator in the early 19th century, to the "greatest engineering feat of the 21st century" – the global electric grid – this presentation takes the audience on a whirlwind tour of scientific discovery, competition, and the creation of the modern world.
<i>Forests for the Trees - Intelligent Communities of Biodiversity</i>	Groundbreaking botanical research has rewritten our understanding of how trees interconnect and communicate through root systems to share information and resources in forests.
<i>German Immigration to Texas 1800s - From Frying Pan into the Fire</i>	Fleeing social upheaval in Germany only to find themselves embroiled in the turmoil of Texas-Mexican-Native conflict and the U.S. Civil War, thousands of German immigrants faced hardship and difficult decisions as they sought - and succeeded - in building a new life, making great contributions to Texas and America.
<i>Grand Canyon National Park – Earth History Exposed</i>	Often called "an open book of Earth's geologic and fossil history," this presentation takes viewers from the rim of the canyon deep into the Inner Gorge of the Colorado River and high overhead in an aerial survey of this stupendous natural wonder.
<i>Great Galveston Hurricane of 1900</i>	Documenting the meteorological and geopolitical origins of what still stands as the worst natural disaster in U.S. history, this presentation surveys the dramatic lead-up to this horrendous, avoidable event and provides original black and white photographs of the aftermath of this tragedy.
<i>Great Migrations - Romans-Celts-Gothic Germanic Tribes-Huns – Collision of Cultures</i>	As Rome expanded north of the Alps into Europe, it encountered Celtic tribes scattered across what is now France, Spain, and Switzerland. Those Celtic tribes were, in turn, being pressed by Gothic Germanic tribes migrating east ahead of Huns invading from Asia.

<i>Iceland – Tectonic Land of Fire and Ice</i>	Emerging out of the North Atlantic from a crack in the Earth's crust, Iceland rose from the sea to provide a home to Vikings and their descendants on a dramatic landscape of glaciers and hot springs. This presentation takes viewers on a road trip around the sparsely-populated island nation.
<i>Meals for Star Voyagers – NASA's Astronaut Nutrition System</i>	A fun romp through the history and future of space nutrition and meal preparation on the International Space Station as we prepare to soon journey to the Moon and on to Mars.
<i>Mayan Civilization and Astronomy</i>	Charting the archaeoastronomy of this great Central American civilization, this presentation dives into dense jungle-encased ruins and out to the stars as viewed by Mayan astronomers who mapped the heavens to guide their agricultural and social activities.
<i>New England Winter – Nor'easters on Maine Coastline</i>	Watch lobster fishermen unload the day's catch at one of Maine's rustic coastal ports and see nor'easter winds whipping snow into drifts on this tour of this dramatic and historic seaside landscape.
<i>New York City and State - History to Present</i>	Survey New York history from its earliest inhabitants to the modern era as we visit this electrifying American city.
<i>Ocean Floor Mapping and Deep-Sea Photography</i>	Dive into deep ocean depths with underwater cameras and mapping technology to experience worlds and life forms unseen by most humans.
<i>Panama Canal - Origin, Construction, Present</i>	Examining the long and difficult multi-national effort to redirect shipping from the Cape of Good Hope to shorter and more affordable trade routes, this presentation captures the challenge and triumph of this engineering feat.
<i>Portuguese History – Celts-Goths-Moors-Templars</i>	Fascinating immersion into the complex history of Europe's western-most country on the Atlantic Ocean. Traces Portugal from its ancient Celtic era, through Roman rule, into Moorish control, and on to hard-fought Christian nation and international maritime power.
<i>Race for the South Pole – Norwegians vs British – 1911-1912</i>	Tracing the path of Norwegian Roald Amundsen and British explorer Robert Falcon Scott, this presentation offers a gripping account of triumph and tragedy in the frozen landscapes of Antarctica.
<i>Rock Art - Ancient Works of Distant Ancestors</i>	Tour a sampling of the world's great ancient rock art and petroglyph sites, from Paleolithic Spanish and French caves to Easter Island and Mayan ruins in the Yucatan, Mexico.

<i>Stargazing through the Starry Seasons</i>	Highlights the ancient constellations and celestial objects visible each season as Earth revolves like a Merry-go-round around the sun.
<i>Texas Tumultuous Political History – 1800s – present</i>	A rousing romp through 180+ years of Texas politics, from antebellum, pre-Civil War times, to 21 st century gamesmanship at the Texas Capitol.
<i>U.S.-Russian Space Race: Competition & Cooperation</i>	Emerging out of WWII, American and Russian forces separately captured German rocket scientists and blueprints, launching the space race that catapulted humans into orbit and to the Moon.
<i>Vikings (Scandinavian Tribes) Storm & Transform Europe</i>	This presentation transports viewers from the 793 CE attack on the St. Cuthbert Monastery at Lindisfarne, England, to the stunning Battle of Stamford Bridge, England, 1066, surveying highlights of the rise and assimilation of Viking and European cultures into each other.
<i>Vikings Sail West - Discover Iceland and Greenland</i>	Following Nordic Viking ships west into the North Atlantic, this presentation provides an overview of Scandinavian exploration and settlement in Iceland, Greenland and into North America.
<i>Young Darwin's Voyage on the HMS Beagle 1831-1836</i>	Signing on at age 26 as the ship's naturalist, Charles Darwin embarked on a dramatic global exploration aboard the HMS <i>Beagle</i> , during which he collected and sent back to England thousands of plant, animal, rock, and fossil samples. This presentation follows in the footsteps of this epic scientific sea-faring adventure.