

PRESS RELEASE

ASTRONOMY WEEK

for families and children

Monday 25 to Friday 29.07.2016 in Sesto

THE SKIES ABOVE SESTO

The sun shines in the Sesto Dolomites with a unique spectacle of nature, the largest sundial from rock formations in the world. Five peaks with heights between 2582 m and 3094 m constitute the Sesto sundial. Their names, Cima Nove (peak 9), Cima Dieci (peak 10), Cima Undici (peak 11), Cima Dodici (peak 12) and Cima Uno (peak 1) are based on the position of the sun at the respective time of day: at winter solstice the sun, the star closest to the earth, arrives at the peak of Cima Nove at precisely 9 am and moves from peak to peak, until at 1 pm it is situated precisely above Cima Uno.

At the end of June during Sesto's first **astronomy week** astrophysicist Conrad Böhm will explain the **special features of the Sesto sundial** during guided excursions for families and children between 7 and 14 years. There are three dates on offer. On two evenings the scientific coordinator from the Institute for Astronomy at Trieste University will also accompany interested sky watchers of all ages on a **star walk in Val Fiscalina**. In the company of the research scientist the sparkling night sky over the Three Peaks nature park promises poetic and insightful experiences. Young and old hobby astronomers learn more about the universe at a **presentation** astronomer Conrad will give on the Tuesday of the astronomy week.

The venues for the events during the whole week are **Casa Sesto** and the **primary school of Sesto**, where Italian astronomer Massimo Ramella will tell children about the solar system in the specially set-up **astrophysics laboratory** and introduce his new book. The scientific expert on the structure of the universe is also the leading European expert for teaching astronomy to children. In the **children's theatre** in Sesto the Italian story teller Andrea Valente whisks children into theatre heaven when his story "**big bang boh**" tells your young ones about the world of the grown-ups and the grown-ups about the world of the young ones.

Highlight for all generations is an encounter with **astronaut and physicist Umberto Guidoni** who in 1996 was a member of the scientific space missions on space shuttle Columbia and in 2001 on space shuttle Endeavour.

For over 25 years the international community of astrophysicists has been meeting in Sesto, the village of the Three Peaks. In 2008 they established the "Sesto Centre for Astrophysics". The new encounters of the scientists with a broad range of guests and local people during the week of astronomy will take place in German and Italian.

Incidentally, historians believe that the name of the village of Sesto can be traced back to the Dolomite formation of the sundial at the times of the Romans. They divided the day different from our modern system and began counting the hours from sunrise. 12 o'clock noon was the "sexta hora", the current village of the Three Peaks the place where at the Roman sixth hour the sun stood right above Cima Dodici.

Overview of the astronomy week

Monday, 25.07.2016

11:30 am to 1:00 pm - visit to the Sesto sundial with Dr Conrad Böhm

9:30 pm to 10:30 pm - star walk in Val Fiscalina with Dr Conrad Böhm

Tuesday, 26.07.2016

4:30 pm to 6:00 pm - Presentation for children and families by Dr Conrad Böhm

9:30 pm to 10:30 pm - star walk in Val Fiscalina with Dr Conrad Böhm

Wednesday, 27.07.2016

4:30 pm to 6:00 pm - "bing bang boh" theatre for children; story time with Dr Andrea Valente

9:30 pm to 10:30 pm - star walk in Val Fiscalina with Dr Conrad Böhm

Thursday, 28.07.2016

11:30 am to 1:00 pm - visit to the Sesto sundial with Dr Conrad Böhm

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm - astronomy laboratory "the solar system" for children with Dr Massimo Ramella

11:00 am to 4:00 pm - story time and introduction of book by the well-known astronaut Umberto Guidoni

Friday, 29.07.2016

11:30 am to 1:00 pm - visit to the Sesto sundial with Dr Conrad Böhm

9:00 pm - 10:30 pm - introduction of the book "Stars, Planets and Galaxies" with Dr Massimo Ramella

INFO

Registration at Sesto Tourist Information, info@sexten.it

Further information on the "Sesto Centre for Astrophysics" and its scientific conference programme can be found at www.sexten-cfa.eu.