

# STAR PATH

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The Star path is a socio-cultural program that involves science and adventure, using astronomical events as storyline. The approach is that young students participate in expeditions where they will learn to understand the sky with the help of professional astronomers. Both, the active participation of the young students in these expeditions and the selection procedure, contribute to increase its scientific background, with three main objectives:

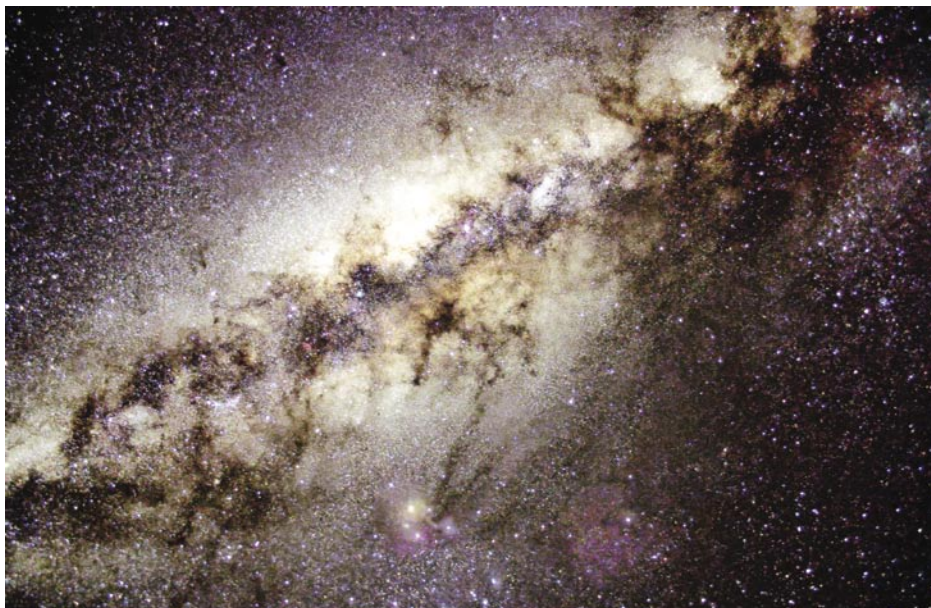
- Enthuse young people the passion to learn.
- Promote the respect for the environment, thinking in the vulnerability and fragility of the ecosystems.
- Strengthen the respect for foreign cultures, teaching how to coexist.

In the [www.rutaestrellas.com](http://www.rutaestrellas.com) web page all the necessary information of this project can be found, such as the initial experiences lived during the first three expeditions:

- Star path '04: Observations of austral skies from the Namib Desert (Namibia). One of the darkest places in the earth.
- Star path '05: Observation of a solar annular eclipse from Los Pedrones (Valencia, Spain).
- Star path '06: Observation of the boreal and austral skies from the summit of Kilimanjaro (Tanzania).

The Star path has confirmed the immense capacity that the Astronomy has for scientific and human education; furthermore, this project pretends to be a non-conventional way to incentive and to entertain young students.





*Figure 1.* Milky Way panoramic from the Norma (left hand) to the Scutum (Right hand) constellations, taken from the Kalahari Desert (Namibia). At the centre is clearly observed the set of dark and bright nebulae that conforms the Sagittarius. Photograph taken with a 300D Canon Digital Camera; with 3 minutes exposure, focal length of 15mm and using an equatorial platform. Copyright staryearth.com.



*Figure 2.* Star trails around the South Celestial Pole, taken from the Okavango Delta of Okavango (Botswana). Photograph taken with a 300D Canon digital camera, with 24 exposures of 5 minutes that conforms two hours observation, with a focal length of 18mm. Copyright staryearth.com.



*Figure 3.* The Magellan's clouds, visible during the break down (sunrise), in contrast with *Aloe dichotoma* (typical kind of tree from the south). The bright star at the top is Achernar ( Eri). Photograph taken with a 300D Canon Digital Camera, with 3 minutes exposure and a focal length of 15mm. Copyright starryearth.com.