

**Galilean Nights Event ID:** gn263

**Number of telescopes:** 1

**Number of organisers:** 4

**Number of attendees:** 60

**Event photos:** <http://www.flickr.com/photos/44027954@N05/4098863015/in/pool-galileannights/>  
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#### **Event Report:**

Galilean Nights in Sandim.

On 24 October, the universe was brought to Sandim.

Integrated in the IYA 2009, I had the pleasure to organize the first astronomy event in the land where I was born.

The activities started at 18h00 in the auditorium of the Parish of Sandim. The projection of images taken by the Hubble Space Telescope with ambience music joined the audience, giving her interest and curiosity. The Dr. Luisa Baptista, responsible for science and culture of the Parish of Sandim, started the session. Paulo Aguiar, amateur astronomer, began the lecture talking about Galileo. He spoke the life and work of him from his birth in Pisa - Italy, until his death in Florence - Italy, after 8 years of house arrest. Also spoke about his academic life, their research in mechanics, geometry and astronomy as well as the construction of the first telescope with astronomical purposes and how he used to prove the heliocentric theory.

I spoke about two celestial bodies studied by Galileo, Jupiter and Moon. The aspect of Jupiter in the sky and how to recognize it. Space exploration in the late twentieth and early twenty-first century helped to discover more about this "gas giant", new moons, magnetic field, their movements, orbital characteristics, dimensions, internal structure and dynamics of its atmosphere were other topics of conversation. Finally, the Galilean moons and their characteristics.

The moon gave continued the lecture, the 40th anniversary of the first landing made by man on Apollo 11 set the tone. Its surface, the visible and hidden face, its geological formations, craters, valleys, mountains and plains, their orbital motions and dimensions as well as their origin hypotheses were topics of conversation. The geometry of the Earth - Moon - Sun and gravitational fields, explain the phases of the moon to an observer on Earth, as well as the mechanics of eclipses and tides.

Following would be an astronomical observation to recreate Galileo's observations, the focus would be the planet Jupiter and the Moon again, but due to bad weather we opted for a "plan B".

Filipe Pires, on my invitation, was kind enough to contribute to the success of the activity, responsible for the dissemination of the "Centro de Astrofísica da Universidade do Porto", CAUP, spoke about the recent discovery of about 32 extra solar planets, through the work of an international team of astrophysicists, some of them from CAUP. He explained two methods used in the discovery of these planets.

He also brought an inflatable planetarium, which showed us the sky indoors. On planetarium was possible to observe the sky that would have outside in case of good weather, we walked through constellations and visible stars, contemplate the planet Jupiter and its moons and saw the position and appearance of the moon at that time.

Simultaneously to sessions in the planetarium, was projected an animation film titled "The great heroes of history - Galileo" which told the life and work of Galileo in a fun way.