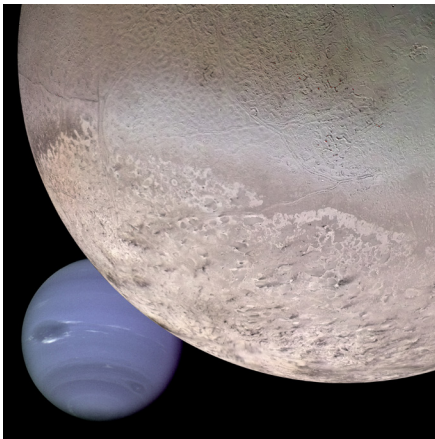


# Chasing Triton's Shadow & Airborne Astronomy Celebration

## October 5, 2017

Join us LIVE for a celebration of airborne observing and for the occultation of Neptune's moon Triton!



SOFIA is the largest airborne observatory in the world, capable of making observations that are impossible for even the largest and highest ground-based telescopes. An extensively modified Boeing 747 carrying a 2.5 meter (100 inch) reflecting telescope, SOFIA gets above the water in the atmosphere to do infrared research; and can be anywhere it needs to be to get the best views of deep space and solar system objects.

As Neptune's moon Triton passes in front of a distant star, it will cast a faint shadow on Earth's surface. The team of researchers will carefully map the path of that shadow and then fly into it to study Triton's atmosphere, directly, for the first time in 15 years. SOFIA will takeoff from Florida to catch the shadow that will fall over the Atlantic Ocean. The shadow is moving; the plane is moving; and the predicted path may change in flight, making catching the shadow very challenging. Researchers are trying to determine if Triton's atmosphere is expanding or collapsing and if haze last seen by the Voyager mission is still present.

**Learn more about this exciting event and SOFIA's on-going adventures in space research by following us on social media: @SOFIATELESCOPE**