

Nightscape



DarkSky

#118 | December 2024

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Responsible dark sky tourism

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DarkSky Awards

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DarkSky

We restore the nighttime environment and protect communities from the harmful effects of light pollution through outreach, advocacy, and conservation.

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On the cover

“Camper Dan”
Pennsylvania, U.S.
by **Michael Melli**

“As a resident of New Jersey living under the blanket of light pollution from the New York City metro area, my lifelong interest in the night sky necessarily involves some travel. The closest Dark Sky Park is about a six-hour drive to Cherry Springs State Park in Pennsylvania, where camping out under the vast sea of stars provides a healthy dose of perspective. We make sure we and our fellow campers can enjoy these rare opportunities by always using red headlamps and even have red lights equipped inside our trusty old camper van, ‘Camper Dan,’ to keep our eyes primed for catching those shooting stars and admiring the Milky Way.”

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Sony a6500 | Samyang 12mm f/2 | single image, 20 sec | f 2.0 | ISO 1600

READ MICHAEL'S BLOG POST ABOUT THE TRIP
bit.ly/DS-cherry-springs

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Web: inputout.net

Nightscape

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From the

Executive Director

As we approach the close of another year, I reflect on the profound connections we share under the stars. This year, I've been fortunate to meet incredible dark sky advocates in New Zealand, Chile, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa — communities protecting the night and inviting the world to experience its wonder through astrotourism.

In Kaikōura, New Zealand, a diminutive seabird inspired a community to embrace nighttime conservation. In Vicuña, Chile, I met with leaders who made astrotourism a cornerstone of their identity at the foot of the Gabriela Mistral Dark Sky Reserve. In AIUla, Saudi Arabia, ancient star lore of the nomadic tribes now guides modern astrotourism. And in South Africa, advocates ensure starlit nights benefit rural communities through sustainable development.

These experiences underscore the importance of our Principles for Responsible Astrotourism — guidelines to ensure tourism preserves the night sky while empowering local communities. As astrotourism grows, these principles provide a roadmap for creating opportunities that respect both people and place.

This year, the comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS united people worldwide as they turned their gaze to the night sky. In a time of profound political and societal change, this shared moment reminded us of something enduring: the stars connect us to our ancestors and guide us toward a shared future.

Inspired by the dedication of these communities, I took a small but meaningful step in my own life. After years of procrastination, I replaced my porch light with a shielded fixture. It took just 20 minutes, and now I have better-quality light on my back porch — light that I

Comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS over the desert in Tucson, Arizona, U.S.



Bettymaya Foott

turn off before bed. This simple action reminded me how easy it is for each of us to reduce light pollution and protect the night sky.

As we look ahead, I invite you to reflect on how we can continue protecting the night, ensuring it remains a source of wonder and opportunity for generations to come.



For the night,
Ruskin Hartley
ruskin@darksky.org
Tucson, Arizona, U.S.

From the Editor

Welcome to *Nightscape* issue 118, themed on dark sky tourism. I'm writing this from Tucson, Arizona, U.S. – the headquarters of DarkSky International – having recently visited some of the oldest astrotourism destinations in the United States, including Adler Planetarium in Chicago and Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona, the latter

astronomical events, including the visit of Comet C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS) and the magnificent aurora displays thanks to the peak of the Sun's 11-year cycle.

With visitor demand comes a responsibility for both travelers and tourism professionals to encourage responsible, sustainable, and even regenerative travel – the idea that travelers can leave a positive mark on the places they visit.

In this issue, we introduce DarkSky's new Principles for Responsible Astrotourism



of which has just opened a new wing with an open-air planetarium on its roof.

During my 20-plus-year career as a travel journalist, I have seen a growing interest in astrotourism, or tourism related to the night sky. This is particularly true over the last six years, as the effects of the COVID-19 lockdowns created a desire to get out into the natural world and feel the calming effects of a starry sky.

This year, I traveled around the world researching and writing a non-fiction book on our human relationship with darkness and the night. From Japan to Argentina and Uzbekistan to England, the demand for nocturnal tourism experiences is clear and growing alongside the increase in certified International Dark Sky Places. This interest has only expanded with recent

(p14–17), a guide to enjoying the night while doing no harm. We also feature a Q&A with author Stephanie Vermillion (p6–11), whose new book *100 Nights of a Lifetime* by National Geographic offers trip inspiration. And on p18–19, we recognize the tremendous work of Advocates and organizations around the world through our annual DarkSky Awards.

January and February are often the busiest months for travel bookings, as many come into the new year resolving to go somewhere special. We hope you will support the night and plan your trips responsibly with dark skies in mind.



Megan Eaves
nightscape@darksky.org
London, U.K.

Advocate highlights

News snippets from our network of DarkSky Advocates around the world



A Iraq

Advocate **Najah Alsalihi** presented an awareness seminar about the harms of light pollution for the **Iraqi Ministry of Environment** in cooperation with Baghdad Municipality. She highlighted the environmental and celestial damage caused by light pollution, ways to combat it, and the importance of establishing astronomical tourism reserves free from any source of light pollution.



C Brazil

DarkSky Advocates **Marcelo de Oliveira Souza** and **Cristiana Rizzetto** from the **DarkSky Rio de Janeiro** chapter were featured in a segment on dark sky protections at the **Desengano Dark Sky Park** on **Globo Repórter**, a national weekly TV news program in Brazil.

B United States

Advocates from **DarkSky NOVA** and **DarkSky Washington D.C.** held an event on protecting our night skies as part of the **Library of Congress National Book Festival**, which was held in August in Washington D.C. Invited as part of the STEM district, which was added for the first time at this year's festival, advocates presented on astronomy and how light pollution affects wildlife and our ecosystems.



D Japan

Nobuaki Ochi and advocates from **DarkSky Japan** held a starry sky preservation symposium in **Kunigami Village, Okinawa**, on September 28,

to promote an understanding of light pollution, with talks on a night sky



brightness survey, local nocturnal animals and astrotourism. Around 50 residents attended and lively discussions were held. Watch the recording on YouTube: bit.ly/DSjapan-symposium

Q&A by Megan Eaves,
London, U.K.

Nights of a lifetime with Stephanie Vermillion



Travel journalist, photographer, and DarkSky member Stephanie Vermillion covers outdoor adventure, astrotourism, northern lights, wildlife conservation, and culture for *National Geographic*, *Outside Magazine*, *Travel & Leisure*, *Vogue*, and *Business Traveler*. Her new book, *100 Nights of a Lifetime: The World's Ultimate Adventures After Dark* will be published by National Geographic on December 3, 2024.

Nightscape Editor Megan Eaves sat down with Stephanie to find out more about her exciting travels after sunset.



Top 5 Night Adventures

#1

Firefly kayaking The Philippines

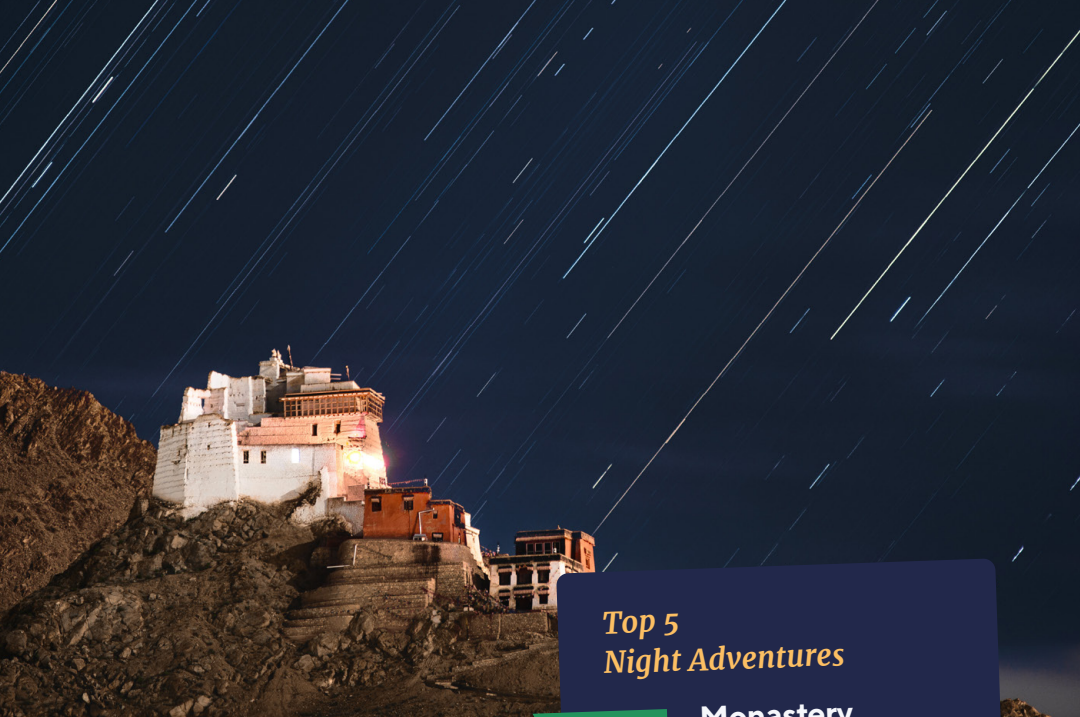
Paddle through Bohol island's labyrinthine mangroves with conservationists as sparkly fireflies fill the sky.

Courtesy Stephanie Vermillion / National Geographic

What made you want to write a book about nighttime adventures?

While studying abroad during college, I caught my first glimpse of the Milky Way on a camping trip in the Sahara Desert. That one look really hooked me. I've been chasing awe-inspiring nightscapes around the world ever since — and that pursuit has opened my eyes to the many “secret” adventures the

world has in store for those willing to stay up late or rise early. (Think: night safaris, twilight turtle tracking, bioluminescence, after-hours festivals — there's just so much!) I see this book as a way to share the moonlit marvels I've encountered with the world, and hopefully, these adventures can help readers find the beauty of the night, just like that Sahara trip did for me.



Tell us about some of the most intriguing experiences you had while researching.

This book, and really my whole career writing about and photographing the world at night, has kept me on my toes — and few experiences illustrate this like camping on the Greenland Ice Sheet, one of the wildest experiences in my book. I envisioned

People loosen up beneath the night sky; that makes stargazing and twilight adventures a great way to forge friendships.

the trip as a chance to see the northern lights dance above the world's second-largest ice sheet. Instead, I ended up camping on ice in a blinding and sub-freezing snowstorm. It served as a good reminder that Mother Nature is always in charge.

Top 5 Night Adventures

#2

Monastery stargazing India

Learn Buddhist and Tibetan sky lore and support a community-based astrotourism project in the Indian Himalaya.

The research also deepened my admiration for our planet, while spotlighting the role travel can play in protecting it. My trip to Panamá

is a great example. I joined Indigenous Ngöbe conservationists to monitor nesting sea turtles beneath the moonlight on a far-flung beach. I watched a recliner-sized leatherback inch ashore, carve and fill her nest, then cover it (flicking sand on us in the process) before crawling back

to the water. The conservationists have helped sea turtle populations rebound there, and a new Indigenous and rural tourism initiative, which I wrote about in my book, gives travelers a chance to experience and support them — which is exactly

the kind of travel so many of us are seeking.

What's your favorite thing about nighttime adventures?

For me, travel is less about the polished moments or the check-the-box attractions. I crave the unscripted — the unexpected happenings that become my life's narrative — and that's exactly what night adventures offer. Last year, for example, my husband and I backpacked to sleep at Phantom Ranch, a lodge on the floor of the Grand Canyon (another experience in the book). Our favorite memory wasn't the marvelous view, nor the accomplishment of completing the grueling hike. It was sharing the trail with a bighorn sheep during our pre-dawn trek out of the canyon when nearly all other hikers were fast asleep.

I've also found that people loosen up beneath the night sky; that makes stargazing and twilight adventures a great way to forge friendships. On

a solo aurora hunt in Greenland last year, I met up with a local guide for dinner. The conversation was lovely but more formal. Then she and I went out to chase the lights. Within minutes, we were giggling like giddy kids, then daring each other to whistle — a nervewracking no-no in Greenlandic culture, as legend says the auroras will swoop down and get you. It's another night I'll remember for the rest of my life.

I'm sure you enjoyed them all, but any personal favorite experiences from the book?

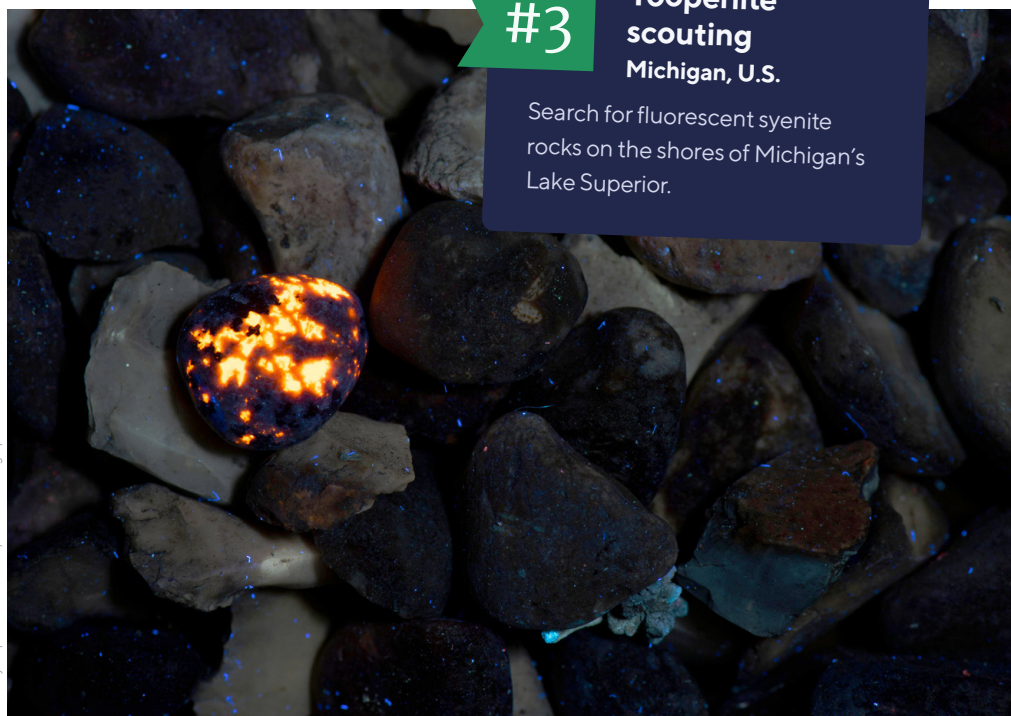
Hands down, I'd say summiting Mount Kilimanjaro at night. Climbers typically spend the first three to four days hiking beneath the sun, then camping beneath the Milky Way, but summit night is a doozy. It kicks off around midnight with a straight-to-

Top 5 Night Adventures

#3

**Yooperville
scouting
Michigan, U.S.**

Search for fluorescent syenite rocks on the shores of Michigan's Lake Superior.



the-top slog beneath the stars that typically lasts until sunrise at Uhuru Peak, the mountain's tippy top. For me, it was life-changing — and not just because I'd tackled Africa's tallest mountain.

My dad climbed Kilimanjaro back in the 1970s and spent his life inspiring me to do the same. We finally decided to make a dream trip happen together in October 2018, but unfortunately, my dad passed away from cancer three months beforehand. My then-boyfriend Frank convinced me we should still climb in my dad's honor. Thankfully, I listened. I felt my dad's presence throughout the trip, but that connection overtook me as I shuffled up the same starlit trail he'd climbed to reach Uhuru Peak some 40 years before me. That

six-hour monotonous night ascent forced me to face my grief head-on.

What makes this memory even more special: once we reached the peak, I traded my warm hat for my dad's worn-out climbing beanie, then turned around to take a photo with Frank — only to find him down on one knee.

What tips would you give to someone trying out nighttime travel for the first time?

Go with a local guide! Not only is this better for the local economy, but you'll feel safer — and you will be safer going with someone who knows what they're doing. Equally, you'll learn about the local culture and perhaps make a new friend (thanks to the night's bonding power).

If you're going on your own, research or talk with a ranger about the local wildlife. This is for both your well-being and theirs. Many creatures are active at night, and you don't want to disrupt them or startle them. Staying on the trails and

Top 5 Night Adventures

#4

Southern lights Australia

Chase the Southern Hemisphere's aurora australis in the best place to catch it: Tasmania.



Courtesy Stephanie Vermillion / National Geographic



Top 5 Night Adventures

#5

Watch the turtle arribada Panamá

See hundreds, maybe even thousands, of nesting sea turtles during the arribada (arrival) of the turtles.

using a red-light flashlight to avoid stepping on any flora or fauna will ensure your presence doesn't impair the very ecosystem you've come to appreciate.

What can we expect to find in the book?

What I love about this book is it's not just night-sky marvels, although there are a lot of those. There's culture, like one of Africa's liveliest night markets or a wine festival in Argentina; there's nature, like hiking to see glowing mushrooms in Australia and diving with the nightly migration of some 10 billion tons of sea creatures; and there's entertainment, including catching a flick at America's oldest drive-in theater or rocking out at Kansas City's historic late-night jam sessions. It's a guide to appreciating life's oft-forgotten hours, with tips on how to safeguard and support the planet and local people through your travels, too. ✦

ABOUT THE BOOK

100 Nights of a Lifetime: The World's Ultimate Adventures After Dark

by Stephanie Vermillion



Let National Geographic be your guide to the world after dark. In this beautifully illustrated volume, you will discover all there is to see and do after the sun goes down. Whether you're looking for a relaxing night sleeping under the stars or a high-energy party full of costumes and live music, there is something for everyone in this nocturnal collection, which spans 30 countries and all seven continents.

GET IT

bit.ly/natgeo100nights

Inspiration



PHOTO
by Dre Erwin on Unsplash

Perhaps travel cannot prevent
bigotry, but by demonstrating that
all peoples cry, laugh, eat, worry, and
die, it can introduce the idea that if
we try and understand each other,
we may even become friends."

– Maya Angelou



Cover story

Responsible dark sky tourism

by Drew Reagan, Arizona, U.S.
and Megan Eaves, London, U.K.





Travelers are increasingly discovering the magic of the night, as the concept of “astrotourism” — traveling to experience starry skies — has become a buzzword in modern travel. Closely related, dark sky tourism encompasses a wider range of nocturnal activities, such as night safaris, moonlit hikes, or well-being activities. These invite people to appreciate and experience the night in new ways, and they’re doing so in record numbers.

Tourism can bring many benefits, like supporting local livelihoods, but it can also inflict harm: degrading natural landscapes and displacing local people. This has sparked concern within the DarkSky community about how to support a new and rapidly growing astrotourism market that benefits local communities and environments while preserving the very resource it depends upon.

To address this, DarkSky has created these guiding principles for responsible astrotourism shaped by insights from our network of International Dark Sky Places and a committee of dark sky experts, researchers, astronomers, and tourism professionals.

DarkSky International’s Principles of Responsible Astrotourism

1. Use light responsibly

Adopt DarkSky’s Responsible Outdoor Light At Night (ROLAN) principles to safeguard the nighttime environment while enhancing visual safety. Ensure outdoor lighting is purposeful, targeted, low-level, controlled, and warm-colored.

Case study: Fulda, Germany

Designated as a Dark Sky Community in 2019, the city of Fulda, Germany enacted a progressive outdoor lighting policy that respects central European lighting traditions while calling for overall reductions in light consumption and reasonable controls on outdoor lighting installations. The city formed partnerships to educate the public about the value of dark skies and how the choices of city dwellers impact the nearby Rhön International Dark Sky Reserve.

Traveler tip: Preserve natural darkness by using red flashlights or headlamps and do not engage in light painting or illumination while photographing.

Left: When camping, use responsible light such as firelight and red headlamps.

2. Protect the natural environment

Ensure tourism activities and operations do not disrupt wildlife or the natural environment. With 69% of mammals being nocturnal, many species rely on natural darkness for survival.

Case study: Kaikōura, New Zealand

The newly designated Kaikōura Dark Sky Sanctuary protects the world's last two wild breeding colonies of the Hutton's shearwater, a highly endangered bird drawn to city lights at night, where they crash land and often die.

Traveler tip: Protect natural areas by keeping noise and light to a minimum, not trampling landscapes, and always carrying out everything you bring in, including your trash.

3. Support the well-being of residents

Consider the needs and activities of local residents, aiming to enhance their experience of the nighttime environment while minimizing any negative impacts on the community.

Case study: Mayo Dark Sky Park, Ireland

Mayo Dark Sky Park sees significant community involvement in environmental preservation. Its annual dark sky festival is attended and staffed by residents and showcases local musicians and artists. A lighting retrofit at the Newport church has made the building safer and more beautiful, while saving two metric tons of CO₂e per year.

Traveler tip: Remember that any place you visit is someone's home, both humans' and other creatures'. Tread lightly, keep an open, curious mind and remember that you are a guest in someone else's space.

4. Honor local and First People cultures

Respectfully and collaboratively integrate local and First People, their traditions, and their knowledge, where possible, with free, prior, and informed consent, recognizing their cultural



Alejandro Sommer

significance and ensuring sensitivity in its application.

Case Study: Cielo Guaraní, Misiones, Argentina

Cielo Guaraní (Guaraní Sky) is an astro-tour connecting visitors with the cosmology and culture of Guaraní communities through nighttime excursions into the jungle of Misiones. Indigenous sky knowledge is shared by a Guaraní guide along with western

science by an astronomer.

Traveler tip: When visiting Indigenous communities, practice consent and good listening. Never enter an area or land, take photographs, or post on social media without express consent of the community or individual.



Astrotourists learning about Guaraní sky knowledge in Misiones, Argentina.

5. Adhere to local regulations

Comply with all relevant local regulations in the areas where you operate, ensuring responsible and legal practices. Support and promote regulations protecting natural darkness, ensuring future generations enjoy the night sky.

Case Study: Springdale, Utah

Adjacent to popular Zion Dark Sky

Park, the town of Springdale enacted regulations to preserve the night sky and improve safety, quality of life, and national parkland. Its municipal code requires businesses and residents to limit outdoor lighting and ensure that it is downward-facing and shielded.

Traveler tip: Always follow signposted rules and regulations, especially regarding communities and wildlife. These are usually put in place to protect both visitors and fragile ecosystems and ensure community safety.

6. Foster sustainable economic growth

Contribute to the local economy by generating meaningful direct and indirect economic benefits for local people and communities.

Case Study: Northumberland Dark Sky Park, England

Northumberland Dark Sky Park has seen steady economic success from dark sky tourism. In 2015–16, 63% of its visitors came specifically for dark skies, and in 2017, Northumberland saw £25 million in economic benefits — 13% of investments were due to dark skies, and there was a 15% increase in business performance, with dark sky tourism supporting 450 local jobs.

Traveler tip: Whenever possible, eat, drink, shop, and stay locally. Avoiding chain and corporate businesses helps ensure communities and local economies benefit directly from your dark sky tourism income.

Together, we can inspire people to experience the wonder of dark skies while reclaiming the night and ensuring its protection for current and future generations. ✦

Download and share the principles as a PDF:



2024 DarkSky Awards

Each year, DarkSky International recognizes the incredible achievements of those committed to our mission to preserve the night. Here, we celebrate and congratulate our 2024 award winners.

Crawford Hunter Lifetime Achievement Award

The highest honor that DarkSky bestows upon individuals who, over their lifetime, have contributed an extraordinary effort to light pollution abatement.



Richard Green
U.S.

Richard Green is awarded the Crawford Hunter Lifetime Achievement Award for his extraordinary lifetime commitment to light pollution abatement, exemplified by his leadership roles in prominent astronomical organizations, advocacy for dark sky legislation in Arizona, and dedication to fostering global awareness of dark skies through his work with the International Astronomical Union. His extensive contributions have significantly advanced the mission of protecting the night sky for future generations.

Bob Gent Community Leadership Award

Given to a DarkSky Chapter or Chapter member who has demonstrated outstanding achievement at the local level in combating light pollution and fostering support for DarkSky's mission and programs.

Dark Skies Herefordshire U.K.

Dark Skies Herefordshire is honored with the Bob Gent Community Leadership Award for their outstanding efforts in combating



light pollution through citizen science, advocacy for improved planning policies, and collaborations that promote Herefordshire's dark skies as a key community asset. Their commitment to environmental stewardship and community engagement makes them a deserving recipient of this recognition.

Galileo Award

In recognition of outstanding achievements in research or academic work on light pollution over a multiple-year period.



Miroslav Kocifaj
Slovakia

Professor Miroslav Kocifaj is awarded the Galileo Award for his exceptional contributions to light pollution research over the past 15 years, including foundational work on the radiative transfer theory of skyglow, pioneering estimates of skyglow from satellites and space debris, and the development of the SkyGlow Simulator software package. His research has significantly advanced the understanding of light pollution and its impacts.

The Dr. Arthur Hoag and William T. Robinson Award

Given to an individual who has been outstanding in educating governmental organizations, businesses, and the public about the merits of outdoor lighting control ordinances.



Sabine Frank
Germany

Sabine Frank is honored with the Dr. Arthur Hoag and William T. Robinson Award for her outstanding dedication to educating governmental organizations, businesses, and the public about the importance of outdoor lighting control ordinances in Germany. Through her tireless efforts and impactful collaborations across various sectors, she has significantly advanced awareness and action on light pollution, building on her prior recognition as a “Dark Sky Defender.”

Dark Sky Place of the Year Award

A recent exceptional achievement by or for an International Dark Sky Place.

Mayo Dark Sky Park Ireland

Mayo Dark Sky Park at Wild Nephin National Park receives the



Dark Sky Place of the Year Award for its outstanding dedication to dark sky conservation and education, engaging nearly 30,000 visitors annually while collaborating with local communities to reduce light pollution. Its innovative outreach efforts, including the Mayo Dark Sky Festival and plans for the 2025 Artificial Light at Night Conference, highlight its leadership in preserving the night sky.

Wildlife Night Watch Award

Individuals or entities whose decisive actions have been instrumental in conserving and protecting terrestrial and/or aquatic wildlife species.



Chiara Carucci
Italy

Chiara Carucci has been instrumental in advancing wildlife conservation through her leadership in the “Lighting Police,” where she raises awareness about the

detrimental impacts of light pollution on sensitive species. Her strategic guidance and dedication to effective outreach have significantly influenced both professionals and the public, making her a deserving recipient of the Wildlife Night Watch Award.

Dark Sky Defender Award

In recognition of individual efforts to promote and advance DarkSky’s mission and programs.

Africa
Nyaguthii Carol, Kenya

Asia
Shweta Kulkarni, India

Oceania
Ken Wishaw, Australia

Europe
Sébastien Vauclair, France

Middle East
Mohammad Saleh Timar, Iran

North America
Rader Lane, U.S.

South America
Silvia Carneiro, Brazil

Rising Star Award

Honors students who demonstrate enthusiasm for and commitment to dark sky conservation or research.

Dora Yang, China

Night Owls, Ireland

Capital of Darkness Team — Auli Lämsä, Emi Cowlshaw, Topi Sievänen, Finland

For more on each winner, visit
DarkSky.org/awards

Newly certified International Dark Sky Places

Announced since August 1, 2024



ABOUT THE PROGRAM



The International Dark Sky Places program certifies communities, parks, and protected areas around the world that preserve and protect dark sites through responsible lighting policies and public education.

BY THE NUMBERS

233

International Dark Sky Places around the world

33

Countries and territories represented

6

Continents represented

176,000+

Square kilometers of protected land and night sky

Find a Dark Sky Place near you

Use the Place finder at DarkSky.org/places



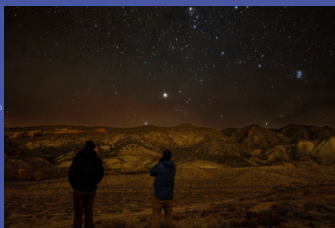


Isle of Rum ¹

Scotland, U.K.

Remote island in Scotland's Inner Hebrides with dramatic mountains and a significant population of Manx Shearwater seabirds.

Dark Sky Sanctuary 104.6 km²

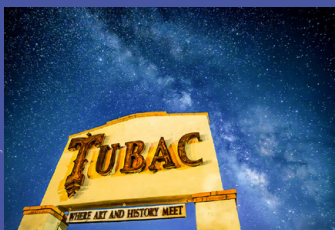


Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area ²

Colorado, U.S.

63,000 acres of conservation land in western Colorado, including the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness, home to hiking, camping, and wildlife spotting.

Dark Sky Park 255 km²

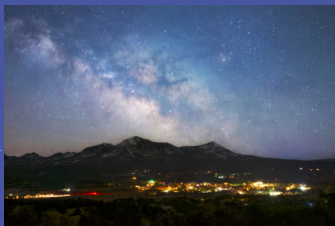


Tubac ³

Arizona, U.S.

Town of 1,345 residents located near the Smithsonian's Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory and Tumacácori Dark Sky Park in southern Arizona.

Dark Sky Community 28.1 km²

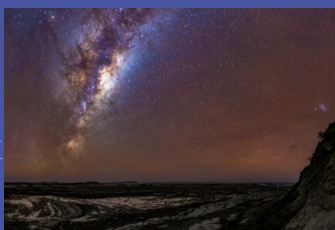


Paonia ⁴

Colorado, U.S.

High desert community of 1,500 people on Colorado's Western Slope surrounded by public lands and wilderness.

Dark Sky Community 2.2 km²



Kaikōura ⁵

South Island, Aotearoa/New Zealand

Two thousand-square-kilometer conservation district home to the last two wild breeding colonies for the endangered Hutton's shearwater seabird.

Dark Sky Sanctuary 2,039 km²



AlUla ⁶

Saudi Arabia

The first International Dark Sky Place in Saudi Arabia and the GCC, AlUla is home to rocky hills, wadis, dunes, and ridges, including the spectacular Harrat Viewpoint.

Dark Sky Park 2,334 km²

News & notables

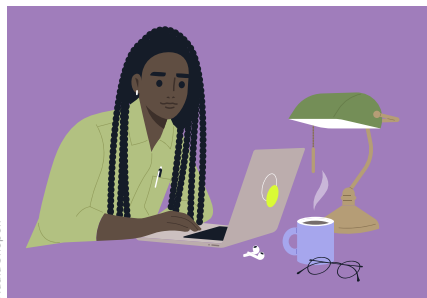
News from the global movement promoting responsible outdoor light at night



Carol Redford

Dark sky tourism in Western Australia

The shire of **Menzies** in Western Australia has identified several dark sky sites and **Advocate Carol Redford** has developed the **Astrotourism Towns Project**, which now encompasses 18 regional governments developing dark sky tourism and reducing light pollution. Local power company **Western Power** referenced the state government's "Dark Sky and Astrotourism Position Statement" in its 2024 Public Lighting Asset Management Strategy and acknowledged that smart LED technology and dark sky initiatives will influence future streetlight design.



Nadia Snopce

Arkansas libraries to go dark

The **Central Arkansas Library System** (CALS), **Arkansas Audubon Society** (AAS), and the **Arkansas Natural Sky Association** (ANSA) have initiated the **Arkansas Lights-Out** building agreement. The library system will turn off outdoor lights at night on most of its 17 campuses. At just one facility, this will remove 400,000 lumens and save nearly two tons of carbon a year while saving money and aiding bird migrations.

Nightscape wins gold prize

Nightscape has won a Gold Prize in the **2024 MarCom Awards**, an international creative competition that recognizes

outstanding achievements in communication. Administered and judged by the **Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals**, the Gold Award is presented to

those entries judged to exceed the high standards of the industry norm.



Nadia Snopce

Grassroots proclamations help dark sky policy

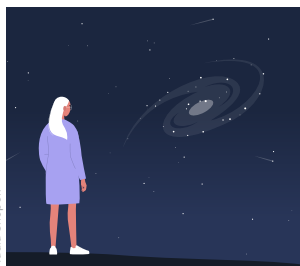
DarkSky's **Bettymaya Foott** and astronomer **Amy C. Oliver** co-published a paper in the **Astronomy Society of the Pacific's** journal highlighting the effectiveness of proclamations and ceremonial documents in grassroots light-pollution advocacy efforts and policy-making.

bit.ly/4hp6xjH

DarkSky endorses the Dark and Quiet Skies Act

DarkSky International has endorsed the **Dark and Quiet Skies Act**, a pivotal U.S. bill championed by **Senators John Hickenlooper** (D-CO) and **Mike Crapo** (R-ID).

If signed into law, the act will establish a Center of Excellence, fund research to mitigate satellite impacts, and develop best practice guidelines for satellites.



Nadia Snopce



Get the latest DarkSky merch

Support DarkSky by purchasing our selection of customized mugs, apparel, and totes.

bonfire.com/store/darksky

OVERHEARD

“DarkSky is a fantastic resource. Your materials are well-written, easily understandable, and offer clear suggestions for reducing light pollution. DarkSky has the capacity to wield a lot of power. A dark sky designation is highly coveted and should be granted judiciously.”

– John Batts, Denver, Colorado, U.S.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Introducing the DarkSky Book Club

In October, DarkSky launched its inaugural book club, reading *Night Magic: Adventures Among Glowworms, Moon Gardens, and Other Marvels of the Dark* by New York

Times bestselling author and **Under One Sky** conference keynote speaker **Leigh Ann Henion**. Stay tuned and join us for

upcoming book club events:

bit.ly/DS-bookclub



Give a gift to the night

DarkSky memberships cover only a portion of our annual budget. To continue our essential work, we rely on annual campaigns and special contributions. Your gift to DarkSky International directly supports critical programs that protect and preserve the night. Thank you for your continued support!

donate.darksky.org



**We rely on
the night.
The night
relies on us.**

Give a gift to the night.

You understand that we need the night, and now, more than ever, the night needs you. DarkSky International relies on our annual end-of-year campaign to fund critical programs that protect the night and keep the stars shining bright.



Donate today!
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