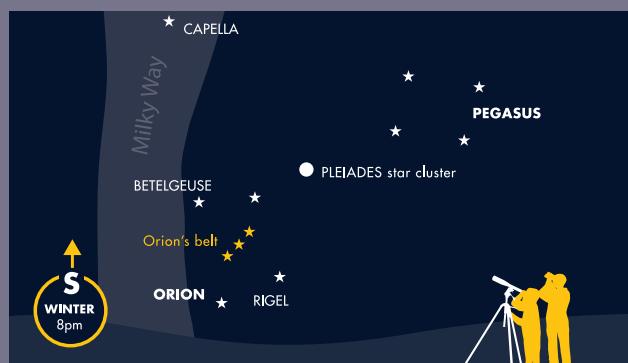
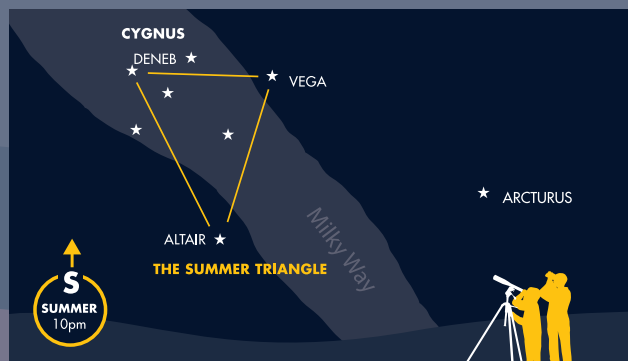
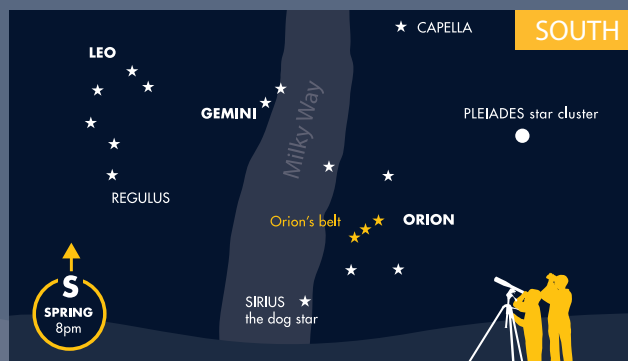


Looking south: These stars change throughout the year.

Look for **Orion** the hunter, **Gemini**, **Sirius**, the Summer Triangle or even our galaxy, the **Milky Way**.



What do you need to get started?

Your eyes! But be patient as they do need to adjust to the darkness. Use a red-light torch to preserve night vision. You'll be amazed how much more you can see after 20 minutes.

Binoculars can be useful but you can see a lot with the naked eye. If you're ready to purchase a pair, look for 7 or 10x50mm. You'll be able to see brighter galaxies, sparkling star clusters and colourful double stars.

Wrap up warm, bring a hot drink, sit back and enjoy the show.

The changing night sky

As the seasons change so does our view of the night sky and we see different constellations as the year passes. During the night, stars and planets also seem to move from east to west. The starriest nights are when there is no moon - look out for new moon phases.

The sky never gets truly dark during mid-summer, so the best time to stargaze is from mid-August through to early May.



Cover photo: Milky Way above Young Ralph's Cross © Andy Dawson Photography
Picture Credits: Steve Bowden, Classlane Media, Russ Norman Photography

Stargazing

in the North York Moors National Park



Find out more

For details of stargazing events and festivals, plus more tips and apps to download, go to:

northyorkmoors.org.uk/darkskies
www.darkskydiscovery.org.uk

Milky Way and meteor shower above Sutton Bank

When the sun sets in the North York Moors, another breathtaking view emerges – a sky full of stars!

The low levels of light pollution and dark skies of the National Park are one of the things that make it such a special place.

What can I see?

The glow from streetlights, retail parks and factories in towns and cities means you'll be lucky to spot more than a handful of stars. Come to the North York Moors and you're in one of the darkest places in England.

You'll be able to glimpse as many as 2,000 stars on a clear night together with other wonders like the **Milky Way**, planets and meteor showers (shooting stars). Magnificent views of the **Northern Lights** can be enjoyed, especially on the coast looking over the North Sea.

★ It's great for nocturnal wildlife too, including owls and moths!

Northern Lights at Jackson's Bay



Great places to see stars

There are three **Dark Sky Discovery Sites** around the National Park, all rated "Milky Way" class by the **UK Dark Sky Discovery partnership** because of their pristine starry skies. These locations are open to the public, provide parking and other facilities, and are accessible to everyone. Look out for stargazing events at these Sites and at other dark locations too.



Dark Sky Discovery sites

- ★ 1 Sutton Bank National Park Centre (YO7 2EH)
- ★ 2 Dalby Forest Observatories (YO18 7LT)
- ★ 3 The Moors National Park Centre, Danby (YO21 2NB)

Other stargazing locations

- ★ 4 YHA Boggle Hole (YO22 4UQ)
- ★ 5 Ravenscar
- ★ 6 Rievaulx Terrace (YO62 5LJ) (open for specific events only)



Star trails above Dalby Forest

Stargazing guide

An easy guide to help you navigate your way around the sky at night.

Looking north: The Plough is the most easily recognised group of stars. Looking a bit like a saucepan, it's always above the horizon. The two stars furthest from the 'handle' end point towards the North Star (Polaris), so you can always find north. On the other side of Polaris is the W-shape of Cassiopeia.

The stars in the northern sky are the same all year round, so you'll always be able to find them on a clear night.

