



Dark Skies & The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC)

What Is A RASC Dark-Sky Site?

Light pollution—light shining where it's not needed or wanted, glare, and skyglow—is caused by excessive and poorly aimed artificial light. Darkness at night is essential for the health of plants and animals, as well as human health. RASC-designated Dark-Sky Sites protect the nocturnal environment by limiting the use and impact of artificial lighting, so they are likely darker than you are used to—and this lets you experience the natural wonder of the starry sky and life at night.

Why Are Dark-Sky Sites Important?



They provide a place where people and nature can experience dark skies in their purest, wildest form.



They protect the natural growth cycle of plants, predator-prey relationships, migration patterns, and natural foraging, nesting, and mating behaviours of wildlife.



The starry night sky has been used for agriculture, time-keeping, navigation, storytelling, and spiritual and religious practices for thousands of years. Dark-Sky Sites help keep the stars visible so that you can enjoy those activities too.

LEARN MORE

Visit our website and social media to learn more about Dark-Sky Sites

www.rasc.ca/lpa



rasc_national



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The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

What Can You Expect At A Dark-Sky Site?



Most areas have little to no artificial light. They are probably darker than you are used to.



Any lighting is low intensity, controlled through shielding and aim, and is likely amber in colour.



Most lights are turned off when not in use and overnight, or controlled by motion sensors.



Your eyes need at least 20 minutes to adjust to the dim lighting, and you will be able to safely navigate once they do.



There may be some activity and slight noise after dark due to nighttime programs or people staying out to observe the night sky.

How Can You Help Protect Dark-Sky Sites?

To protect the nocturnal environment and the nighttime experience:

- Limit the use of high-beam headlights when travelling in your vehicle
- Turn off headlights in the vicinity of other visitors when it is safe to do so
- Use low lights or low-beam flashlights when travelling on foot
- When possible, use amber bulbs or amber filters over white lights

At Your Campsite:

- Turn off lights when they are not in use
- Use dimmable flashlights or lanterns
- Avoid use of string lights or area lights

