



adirondacks, usa

Adirondack Mountains - A prime eastern stargazing zone

The Adirondack Mountains, in upstate New York, boast very little light pollution, relatively low humidity, and elevation – all important factors for viewing the stars.

Eighty percent of Americans cannot see the Milky Way at night, due to the glow of artificial light. In the Adirondacks, it is very common to see the Milky Way. Ink-black skies, low humidity, solitude and wide open spaces provide the perfect backdrop for celestial observation.

The Bortle scale, a nine-level scale that quantifies light pollution, used to measure the darkness of the night sky, rates most of the Adirondacks as a class 2 - a “typical truly dark site.” (By way of comparison, a big city is typically rated a 9.)

While visitors can, quite literally, view the night sky from just about any location within the region, there are a number of places within the Adirondacks that would offer an incredible stargazing experience:

- Marcy Field, Keene Valley, NY - this wide open field is surrounded by the region’s High Peaks. It offers a wide view of the sky above.
- Hamilton County - sparsely populated with very little light pollution. Stargazers can simply drive to an open field or lakeshore.
- For the adventurous, hike one of the Adirondack mountains - even a relatively small mountain would provide amazing views.
- The Lake Champlain region provides a true panoramic view of the night sky with its wide open spaces. Whether on the shore or on a boat in the middle of the lake, the night sky envelops stargazers.
- Belfry Mountain fire tower, Moriah, NY - a very easy walk to the firetower, with an amazing view of the Adirondack Mountains to the west and Lake Champlain to the east.
- Visit the [Adirondack Sky Center and Observatory](#) in Tupper Lake
- Heaven Hill, on the outskirts of Lake Placid, offers a wide open field on the Orchard Loop.

The Adirondacks offer some of the best opportunities for outdoor recreation in a beautiful, natural setting; it is within a day’s drive for 25% of the entire North American population. Stargazing is certainly one of the most beautiful experiences. For more stargazing options, visit [Adirondack Wayfinder](#).