

So just what can you see when you visit the park?

You could be one of only a few people in the United Kingdom to see the Milky Way our very own Galaxy, which shows up in our sky as wispy cloud running across the sky. You see it as cloud due to the sheer number of stars in it! Look even closer and you might even see Andromeda our nearest galaxy.

The easiest objects to see are our own stars and with the help of these star charts you should be able to spot a few!

A distant galaxy 100million light years away

You will need...

- ★ Warm clothing
- ★ Binoculars
- ★ Torch (preferably with a red filter)
- ★ Hat & gloves
- ★ Stout shoes/ boots

What to look out for...

Looking up at the stars in the night sky, you can see that some of them make up patterns and shapes, called constellations. Every culture around the world has joined the dots in the night sky and created legends behind these.

The star maps here show some of the more obvious constellations visible from Galloway Forest Dark Sky Park throughout the year.

How many stars can you name? Can you find Orion the Hunter? Cygnus the Swan? The Plough? Some constellations are only visible at certain times of the year.

Can you find north?

Use the two stars at the end of the Plough, known as the pointer stars, to trace a line to the faint North Star, the Pole Star or Polaris. If you stand facing this star you will be pointing North.

Open star cluster known as the wizard nebula

Looking North



Looking South

