Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

Galloway

Galloway Forest Park

Beyond your horizons





Welcome to the Uk's first **Dark Sky Park**.

You have entered an area of wonder & exploration. All around you are plants and animals that rely on the daytime sun. But at night, we enjoy a perfectly dark sky, studded with thousands of stars and the Milky Way stretching overhead from horizon

Here you can gaze and wonder at the **magic of the night sky**, just as your ancestors have done for thousands of years.

to horizon.

Grab a pair of binoculars, some warm clothing and head out. You will discover wonders that few people get a chance to see these days. Light pollution in modern towns and cities has drowned out all but the brightest stars. But not here in the Dark Sky Park - a darkness that needs to be protected.

What is a **Dark Sky Park?**

A Dark Sky Park is a place with **exceptionally dark night skies**, a place where people have committed to keeping those skies dark, by controlling light pollution.

In November 2009, the International Dark-sky Association designated Galloway Forest Park as only the fourth Dark Sky Park in the world and the **first in the uk**.

But that's not all. The Galloway Park is **REALLY** dark - a Gold Tier Dark Skies park. Very few people live in the 300 square miles of forest and hills in the park so nights really are black - apart from the stars! Forestry Commission Scotland and the people of the park are committed to keeping it that way.



Other Dark Sky Park's around the world: Natural Bridges National Monument (Utah), Cherry Springs State Park (Pennsylvania), Geuga Park Districts Observatory Park (Ohio), Zselic Landscape Protection Area (Hungary)

Fàilte don chiad **Phàirc** nam Speuran Dorcha ann am Breatainn

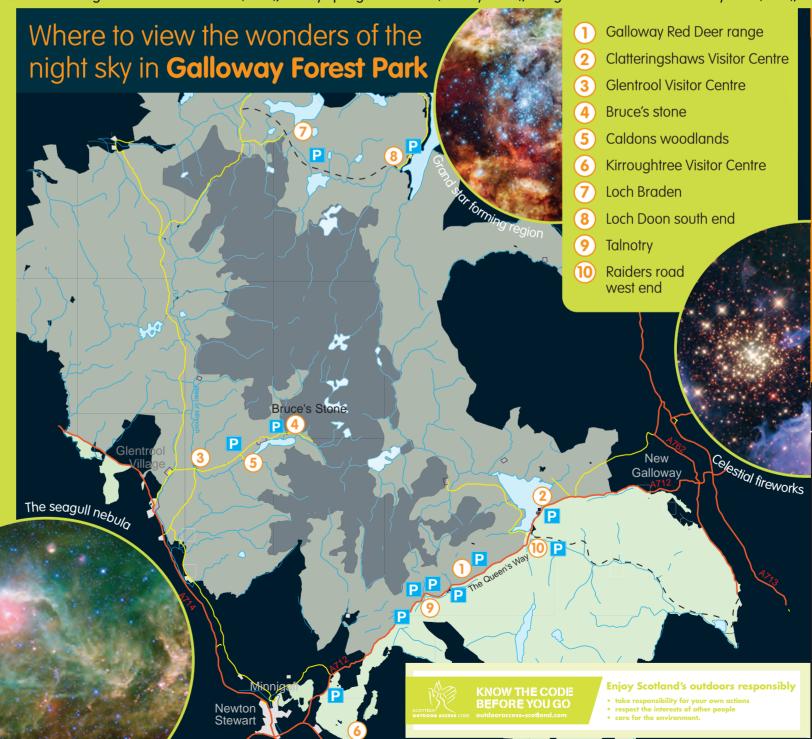
ann am Breatainn
Tha sibh air thighinn a-steach
a shaoghal mhiorbhail is
rannsachaidh. Mun cuairt
oirbh tha lusan is
ainmhidhean agus iad uile
an urra ris a' ghrèin. Air an
oidhche, ge-tà, gheibhear an
seo speuran dubha dorcha, is
mìlltean de reultan ri fhaicinn.
Faodar gabhail sealladh agus
iongantas air beartas na
h-oidhche; mar a rinneadh
bho sheann leis na
sinnsearan againn.

'S e Pàirc nam Speuran
Dorcha, raon far am faighear
fior speuran dubha dorcha,
agus na daoine ag amas
air na speuran seo a chumail
dorcha; le smachd ga cumail
air truilleadh sholas.
Le cho beag de dhaoine
a' fantainn sa phàirc
seo, is
oidhcheannan
dubha dorcha
dhà-rìribh a
gheibhear

innte - ach solas

nan reultan

a-mhàin!



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Light Pollution

The glow you often see spilling out into the night sky from our towns and cities makes it much harder to see the stars. This is caused by too much and poorly designed lighting in our urban areas. It can also:

- waste vast amounts of money
- disturb wildlife
- disturb people & their sleep
- cause medical health problems

Switch off or point down!





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For information on public transport contact: Traveline Scotland,

0870 200233 or www.travelinescotland.com

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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!

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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 Open star cluster a line to the faint North Star, the Pole Star or Polaris. If you stand facing this star you will be pointing North.













