

THE SATURDAY EVENING POST

Starry, Starry Nights at Dark Sky Preserves

Dark sky tourism is on the rise as travelers head to remote destinations to catch a glimpse of the dazzling night sky.

Stargazing



The Milky Way at Joshua Tree National Park (Shutterstock)

Dark Sky Parks, Sanctuaries, and Places can be found throughout North America. Here are nine outstanding destinations for nighttime viewing.

The 9-million-acre **Greater Big Bend International Dark Sky Reserve** is the world's largest protected Dark Sky Place, comprising land on both sides of the Texas-Mexico border. The McDonald Observatory hosts a Star Party most evenings.

Big Cypress National Preserve, Florida, borders Everglades National Park and is among the most biodiverse environments in North America. Free Night Sky Programs are scheduled throughout the year.

Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Minnesota, is a remote area virtually devoid of light pollution threats and is considered the world's largest Dark Sky Sanctuary. There are more than 1,200 miles of canoe routes in the Boundary Waters.

Cape Lookout National Seashore includes three North Carolinian barrier islands known for dune structures and salt marshes. The Crystal Coast Stargazers have a variety of night sky programs.