

## What is a Dark Sky Park?

A Dark Sky Park is an area with exceptional dark night skies and where people are committed to reducing light pollution.

The Tomintoul and Glenlivet – Cairngorms Dark Sky Park is the most northerly in the world!

## The best star gazing spots

You will get an excellent stargazing experience almost anywhere in the Dark Sky Park. But you can find the best views of the night sky at three Dark Sky Discovery Sites.



Once you have arrived at your chosen star gazing site, please turn off all your lights. Your eyes should adapt to the dark in ten minutes.

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## Find us

The Tomintoul and Glenlivet – Cairngorms Dark Sky Park [Páirc nan Speuran Dorcha] lies in the north east of the Cairngorms National Park. It is naturally shielded from light pollution by the high hills that surround it.



Find out more about our northern night skies and dark skies events at: [www.cairngormsdarkskypark.org](http://www.cairngormsdarkskypark.org)

Find visitor accommodation and information at: [www.tomintoulandglenlivet.com](http://www.tomintoulandglenlivet.com)

**The Dark Skies Project** is part of Tomintoul & Glenlivet Landscape Partnership, a National Lottery funded project to regenerate Tomintoul and Glenlivet.



The best place in the Cairngorms National Park to enjoy the starry wonders of the night sky



# Look up to the stars in

## Spring

*Earrach*

## Winter

*Geamhradh*

## Autumn

*Foghar*

The Charloeter  
(Auriga)

The Chair  
(Cassiopeia)

The Swan  
(Cygnus)

Drostan  
(Perseus)

The Big Hunter  
(Orion)

The Pleiades

Andromeda  
Galaxy

The  
Great  
Nebula

The Bull  
(Taurus)

The Ram  
(Aries)

Essyft  
(Andromeda)

The Boar of the Woods  
(Pegasus)

The Big Hunter [*An Sealgair Mór*] was Finn McCool, leader of a legendary band of warriors. Can you spot the glow of the Great Nebula at the end of his dirk? This is a stellar nursery where new stars are born.

Can you spot the Andromeda galaxy [*Reul-chrios Andromeda*]?

It is 2.5 million light years away - the furthest thing that can be seen with the naked eye.

The Swan [*An Eala*] represents Aengus, the Gaelic god of youth. He changed himself into a swan to be with his love Cáer Ibormeith who had become a swan herself.

The star clouds of the Swan are one of the brightest parts of the northern Milky Way.

Scottish Gaelic translations are shown in *italics*. For more information on the Gaelic night sky, visit [www.cairngormsdarkskypark.org](http://www.cairngormsdarkskypark.org)

The Dancing Men [*Na Fir Chlis*] or **Aurora** are one of the most spectacular sights of our northern skies. They can appear at any time but keep a special lookout around the equinoxes.

**Shooting stars** [*Dreag*] are comet dust that burns up as it enters the atmosphere.

The **Milky Way** [*Sgrìob Chlann Uis*] is our very own galaxy – home to 250 billion stars.

Can you see the dark patches in the Milky Way? These are clouds of dust which will eventually create new stellar nurseries.