

Where is the best place to see the northern lights? aa

Best place to see the Northern Lights: Iceland, Norway and Alaska

Obviously, Scandinavia comes to mind first. Then perhaps Iceland and Russia, and possibly parts of northernmost Scotland also afford glimpses at what is regarded by many, as one of the coolest natural effects on Earth. And it's free!

Laymen should note the very important difference between the two major concepts of the Arctic Circle, namely the midnight sun and the aurora borealis (Northern Lights). The Midnight Sun is a summer phenomenon occurring from mid-May till late July when nearly 24 hours of sunlight shines, while the aurora borealis is a flaming winter spectacle occurring during the nearly 24 hours of perpetual winter darkness.

Hammerfest, located at the top of the North Cape of Norway, boasts being the world's northernmost town and serves as the ultimate destination. Southwest of Hammerfest, yet still 250 miles north of the Arctic Circle, and much further down the coastline lies Tromsø which has an extraordinary Northern Lights Planetarium, a Polar Museum, and an Arctic Church which would be of interest to enthusiasts.

Another great location for viewing the Midnight Sun would be in Sweden over 900 miles north of Stockholm at a tiny resort town called Abisko. Aside from its national park, lake, and island it boasts the longest marked trail in the world called the Kungsleden, or the Royal Trail, which runs some 210 miles in total distance.

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Searching for the Northern Lights, also known as the Aurora Borealis, is a magical experience that draws thousands of sky watchers to various destinations within the Northern Hemisphere each year. The phenomenon occurs when electrically charged particles from the sun collide with gases in the Earth's atmosphere, creating dancing lights across the sky. To see the aurora borealis in its full glory, choosing the right destination and the best time to visit is crucial. One of the best places to view the lights is Alaska, specifically in Fairbanks, which lies under the auroral oval, where the chance of seeing the northern lights is significantly higher due to its geographical position and dark skies, free from light pollution.

Iceland is another premier destination for northern lights viewing, offering unique landscapes that add to the overall experience. From late August through April, when the sky is sufficiently dark, and the weather conditions are favorable, the lights appear more frequently. Iceland's wide open spaces away from city lights, particularly around its numerous fjords and hot springs, provide ideal settings for aurora hunting. Additionally, combining the experience with activities like dog sledding, snowshoeing, or relaxing in a hot spring makes for an unforgettable adventure.

Norway, with its stunning fjords and mountainous terrain, offers another spectacular backdrop for watching the northern lights. Places like Tromsø, situated well within the Arctic Circle, are known for their high aurora activity. The best time to see the northern lights in Norway is from late September to March, when the nights are long and dark. Visitors can embark on a northern lights tour, which often includes a stay in an ice hotel, ice fishing, or even a cruise along the coast to view the lights from the water, providing a unique perspective of the aurora borealis dancing over the northern horizon.

Yellowknife in Canada's Northwest Territories is renowned for its aurora viewing, thanks to its location directly beneath the auroral oval and its clear skies. Known as one of the best places to see the aurora in North America, Yellowknife offers a wide range of northern lights tours, including those that take visitors onto the frozen lakes for an unobstructed view of the sky. The city's aurora season stretches

