

International Dark Sky Park

Stargazing Guide

An easy guide to help you navigate your way around the night sky in the Northumberland International Dark Sky Park

www.visitnorthumberland.com/darkskies

How to use your Starchart

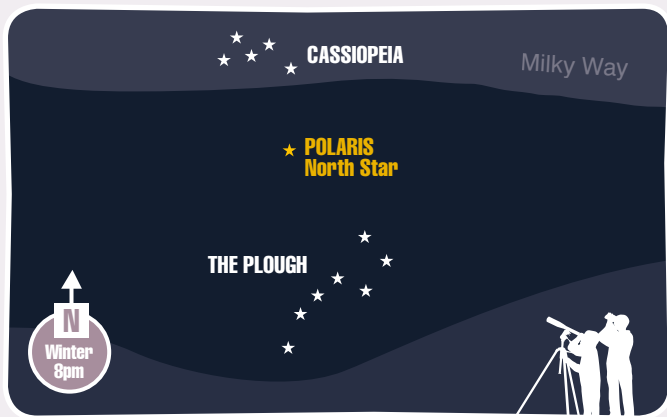
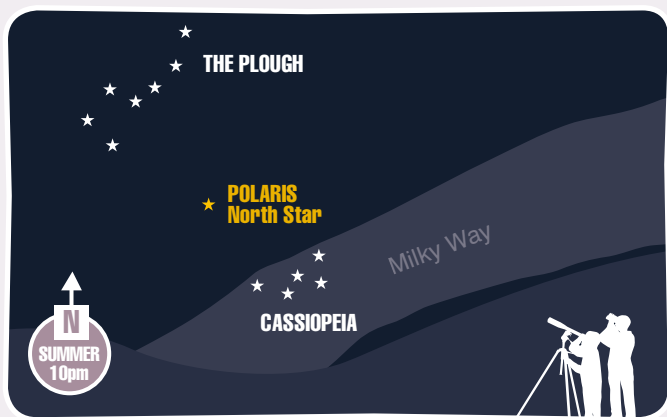
Hold the starchart up in front of you when you're facing the appropriate direction and look at the sky!



Looking North

The Plough is the most easily recognised group of stars in the northern sky. It is always above the horizon, it looks a bit like a saucepan, and the two stars furthest from the 'handle' end point towards the North Star, so you can always find north.

On the other side of Polaris is the W-shape of Cassiopeia. The stars in the northern sky are the same all year round, so you will always be able to find them on a clear night.



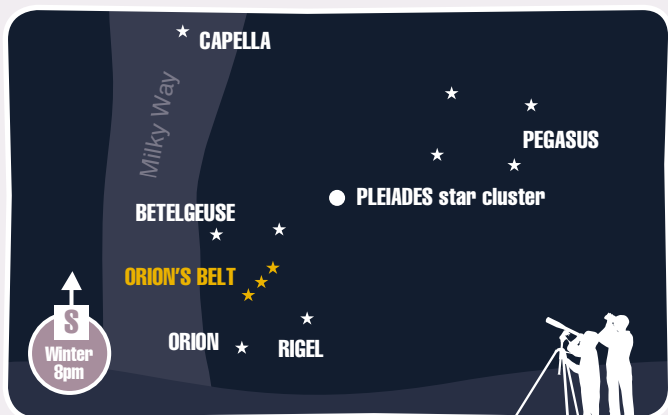
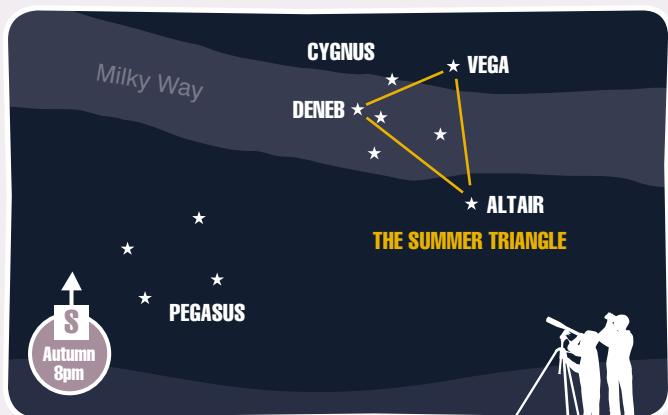
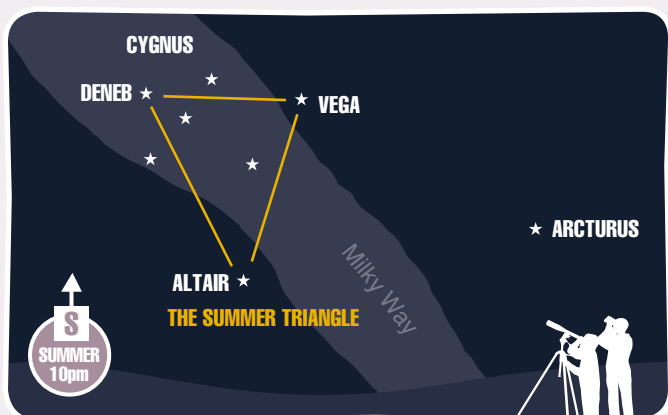
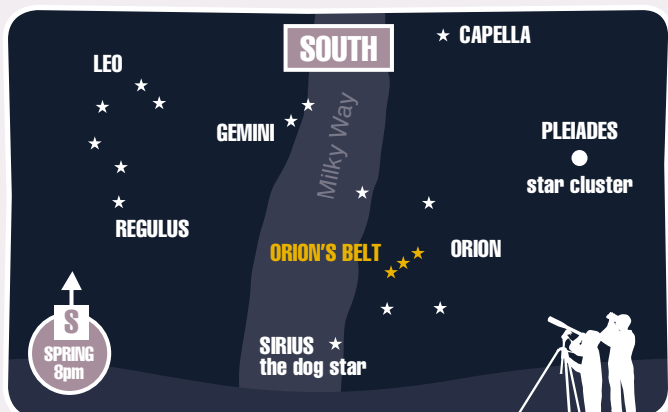
Looking South

NORTHUMBERLAND
AN INDEPENDENT SPIRIT

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These stars change throughout the year, but you should see variously, Orion the hunter, Gemini (two stick-figures), Sirius, the Pleiades or Seven Sisters, the Summer Triangle, Cygnus the swan (and if you're very lucky, our galaxy, the Milky Way down which it flies), the square of Pegasus, and if you follow the curve of the handle of the Plough, Arcturus.

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Where can you go to see the stars?

You can find information on dark skies in the Northumberland International Dark Sky Park at: www.visitnorthumberland.com/darkskies



Cover photos: © Cain Scrimgeour, Sycamore Gap Hadrian's Wall; © Alisdair Mckenzie, Kids at Cawfields



This project is supported by The Rural Development Programme for England, for which DEFRA is the Managing Authority, part financed by The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe Investing in rural areas.



Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Match funded by Northumberland County Council, Northumberland National Park Authority, Kielder Water & Forest Park Development Trust, Forestry Commission England, Northumbrian Water, Kielder Observatory, North Pennines AONB Partnership, Durham County Council and Newcastle University together with support from Northumberland Tourism.

Based on an original design by Forestry Commission Scotland, updated by Media Services, Royal Observatory, Edinburgh