Ideas, tips and tricks for your Dark Skies Festival event

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

Contents

Event theme suggestions 2
Book an astronomer 2
Stargazing guides 2
Dark Sky Reserve International Status 3
Dark Sky Discovery Sites 3
Dark Sky Friendly initiative 3
Improve your lighting 3
Go Stargazing website 3
Dark Skies Apps 4
Quizzes and fun facts 4

Event theme suggestions

Here are just some ideas of the type of event you might want to hold. Don't feel constrained by these suggestions! You can be as original and creative as you like...

- Camping or glamping sites make perfect locations for stargazing weekends.
- Combining an evening meal or package with a guide to the stars, creating a fascinating, celestial experience.
- Activity providers could host guided night runs, walks, bike rides, canoeing, or even a night time zip wire!
- Create themed products, such as starry biscuits, cakes or even a starry pie!
- Accommodation providers could hold stargazing breaks which include a private astronomer for an evening.
- Or promote all the events that are taking place to encourage visitors to stay with you and experience the festival.

Alternatively please feel free to collaborate with other businesses and share any of the events and activities going on during the festivals with your visitors.

Tip! With the sometimes unpredictable weather over the winter period it is advised to plan an alternative activity or indoors back up for when it may not be possible to be outside or see the stars.

Book an astronomer

Book an astronomer and they will be able to add value to you event and inform and entertain your guests for the evening, from telescope sessions to presentations about the night sky. Get in touch for astronomer contacts.

Stargazing guides

We have a 'Stargazing' page on our website with a wealth of information of places to go and what you can see. We also have a dedicated leaflet to help visitors have the best stargazing experience they can.

Share with your visitors the many ways in which they can get out, explore and enjoy the stars.

If you are looking for information to share with your visitors (or even for yourself) on some of the best things to see in the night sky and unmissable celestial events, for 2021 and 2022, check out this free astronomy guide to help you plan ahead for all of the best stargazing and astronomical events!

Dark Sky Reserve International Status

Use our Dark Sky Reserve International Status to promote your business – we are just one of 18 Dark Sky Reserves in the world, accredited by the International Dark Sky Association!

Dark Sky Discovery Sites

There are four designated Dark Sky Discovery Sites in the Yorkshire Dales National Park – at Hawes and Malham National Park Visitor Centres, Buckden National Park Car Park and Tan Hill Inn. These are locations that are defined as being open to the public, accessible to all abilities and provide parking and other facilities, and are a great place to begin.

Dark Sky Friendly initiative

Become a Dark Sky Friendly business – we will promote you as a stargazing hotspot to visitors who wish to come and explore the night sky.

Improve your lighting

Find out why our dark sky is so important and share this with your visitors so they can gain a better understanding of why the Yorkshire Dales is such a special destination for stargazing and why our night sky needs protecting.

Read our guidance to see how you can improve your own lighting to make your business even more 'Dark Sky Friendly'. Download our 'Good Lighting Advice' leaflet to find out more.

Go Stargazing website

The Go Stargazing website has a vast amount of information on everything to do with stargazing, including a Dark Sky Calendar, a dark skies events calendar, telescope guides, 'Stay and Gaze' for stargazing accommodation, as well as plenty of great advice.

Dark Skies Apps

Some of the best Apps for enjoying the night sky.

- Go Stargazing Download for Android and Apple (free).
- Light Pollution Map Download for Apple devices (free).
- SkyView Lite Download for Android and Apple devices (free).
- Stellarium Download for Android and Apple devices (free).
- NightCap Download for Apple devices (£2.99).
- Dark Sky Download for Apple devices (£3.99).

Quizzes and fun facts

Gen up on some space facts or share these with your visitors.

- Space facts
- Astronomically advanced quiz
- Astronomically advanced quiz - answers
- Children's galaxy quiz quest
- Children's galaxy quiz quest – answers
- True or false quiz
- True or false quiz - answers
- Dark Skies Activities