

Welcome to the Kerry Dark Sky Reserve on the Iveragh peninsula

What is a Dark Sky Reserve?



Approximately 700km² of the Iveragh Peninsula is designated as the Kerry International Dark Sky Reserve by the International Dark Sky Association, who recognise it as an exceptional place for starry skies.

Protected from external light pollution by high mountains to the east and the Atlantic Ocean to the west, the Reserve offers opportunities to experience the night as our ancestors did. Constellations, planets, and the Milky Way are visible on clear, dark nights.

The reserve consists of a core area that meets requirements for natural darkness, and a buffer area that supports dark sky preservation in the core. The reserve was formed through a community partnership that recognised the value of the nocturnal environment.

Explore the night sky



The night sky is ever changing, so if you want to identify stars and constellations, a smartphone app or a monthly star chart will help.

Also look for a local guide to take you stargazing in the Reserve – there's nothing like stargazing in good company with the sound of the Atlantic nearby!

You don't need to identify stars, though, you could also just sit back on a clear night and enjoy the spectacle of the twinkling stars. Listen for owls, bats, and other nocturnal wildlife and imagine living in a time when people could use the stars to navigate and tell the date.

Your eyes won't fully adjust to the darkness for up to 40 minutes, so wrap up and be patient.

What is Artificial Light Pollution?

Artificial Light Pollution prevents us from seeing the stars, negatively impacts and confuses wildlife, wastes energy, and affects human health and safety. Light pollution comes from lights that are brighter than they need to be, that shine onto areas that don't need to be lit up, or that are in the wrong colour tone ('warm' tones are better).

Useful Links

www.darksky.org
www.darksky.ie
www.stellarium.org
www.skymaps.com