

See the Northern Lights

The Northern Lights are a breathtaking natural phenomenon you can witness in the night sky.

The Aurora Borealis, commonly known as the Northern Lights, is a natural light display caused by electrically charged particles from the Sun colliding in the Earth's atmosphere, having been propelled into it by a solar wind or solar flare.

We're currently heading into the peak of an 11-year solar cycle, offering a great chance to witness this phenomenon, before opportunities gradually diminish for the next decade.



Tips for Seeing the Lights:

- Make sure the sky is clear and dark—no clouds or city lights.
- The best places to see them are in rural areas or near the coast. Northumberland is a great spot because it's a Dark Sky Park.
- Phones and cameras with long exposures capture the colours of the Northern Lights more vividly than our eyes do. The real experience may be more subtle in appearance.
- The Northern Lights can be unpredictable, so plan to spend several hours outside and be prepared for long waits. Prepare for cold weather by dressing in layers and bringing along blankets or hand warmers.
- Check out apps like AuroraWatch UK to see when they might appear. You can even sign up for alerts if you're really excited!

Share Your Photos! If you catch a glimpse of the Northern Lights, share your snaps with us on social media [@ScienceAtLife!](#)