

# Astro-Tourism

ESSENTIALS CHECKLISTS



# DARK SKY RESERVES AND PARKS

[ ] **Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, Arizona:** Offers pristine stargazing opportunities away from urban light pollution.

[ ] **Cherry Springs State Park, Pennsylvania:** Designated as a Gold Tier International Dark Sky Park, ideal for observing the Milky Way.

[ ] **Big Bend National Park, Texas:** Renowned for its expansive, unobstructed views of the night sky, particularly during meteor showers.

[ ] **Great Basin National Park, Nevada:** Offers some of the darkest skies in the country, with ranger-led astronomy programs.

[ ] **Death Valley National Park, California:** Known for its extreme desert landscapes and exceptional stargazing opportunities.

[ ] **Chaco Culture National Historical Park, New Mexico:** A UNESCO World Heritage Site with ancient Puebloan ruins and stunning night skies.

## OBSERVATORIES

[ ] **Mauna Kea Observatories, Hawaii:** Situated atop Mauna Kea, these observatories boast some of the clearest and darkest skies on Earth.

[ ] **Kitt Peak National Observatory, Arizona:** Offers guided night sky observing programs and telescope viewings.

[ ] **Griffith Observatory, California:** Provides public telescopes and astronomy exhibits with stunning views of Los Angeles and the cosmos.

[ ] **Lowell Observatory, Arizona:** Founded in 1894, this historic observatory offers public programs and telescope viewings.

[ ] **Green Bank Observatory, West Virginia:** Located in a radio-quiet zone, it's perfect for radio astronomy enthusiasts.

[ ] **Monte Vista Observatory, Colorado:** Operated by the University of Denver, it offers public viewing nights and educational programs.

# ASTRONOMY FESTIVALS

(2025 dates may vary, check closer to the year)

[ ] **Starfest Astronomy Conference and Sky Tour (August 1-4, 2025)**: Held annually in South Park, Colorado, featuring workshops, speakers, and telescope viewing sessions.

[ ] **Texas Star Party (May 11-18, 2025)**: Hosted in the Davis Mountains, Texas, this event offers dark skies and camaraderie among amateur and professional astronomers.

**Oregon Star Party (August 7-12, 2025)**: Located in the Ochoco National Forest, Oregon, attendees can enjoy lectures, workshops, and observing sessions.

[ ] **Winter Star Party (February 10-16, 2025)**: Held in the Florida Keys, this event offers warm weather and clear skies for observing.

[ ] **AstroFest (October 3-6, 2025)**: Hosted by the University of Arizona in Tucson, featuring workshops, demonstrations, and telescope displays.

[ ] **Black Forest Star Party (September 20-22, 2025)**: Located in Pennsylvania, this event offers camping and observing opportunities in a designated Dark Sky area.

## CELESTIAL EVENTS

[ ] **Perseid Meteor Shower (August 12, 2025)**: Widely regarded as one of the best meteor showers of the year, with peak activity in dark sky locations.

[ ] **Total Lunar Eclipse (November 8, 2025)**: Visible across much of the United States, this eclipse promises a breathtaking sight as the Earth's shadow completely covers the moon.

[ ] **Partial Solar Eclipse (April 29, 2025)**: While not a total eclipse, portions of the United States will witness a partial solar eclipse, providing a unique celestial event for observers.

[ ] **Geminid Meteor Shower (December 14, 2025)**: Known for its bright meteors, this shower is best observed away from city lights.

[ ] **Transit of Mercury (November 7, 2025)**: Mercury will pass directly between the Earth and the Sun, visible with proper solar viewing equipment.

[ ] **Annular Solar Eclipse (June 11, 2025)**: Visible from parts of the Western United States, this eclipse will create a "ring of fire" effect as the Moon passes in front of the Sun.