

Stargazing Happenings

Enjoy Dark Skies in Utah's Canyon Country

As residents know, Utah's Canyon Country is home to several remarkable and scenic attractions, including Monument Valley, Canyonlands National Park and Natural Bridges National Monument. While the scenery in this area is certainly stunning, the views available when the sun goes down are also worth experiencing.

Great stargazing locations can be found in many spots throughout Utah's Canyon Country, particularly because the area is less populated than many other parts of the country. In addition, the Colorado Plateau Dark Sky Cooperative has placed an emphasis on reducing light pollution to keep dark skies prevalent.

The International Dark-Sky Association (IDSA) recently designated Rainbow Bridge National Monument as only the fourth Dark Sky Sanctuary in the world. The IDSA defines Dark Sky Sanctuaries as "the most remote (and often darkest) places in the world whose conservation state is most fragile."

Despite being 160 acres and one of the smallest units under the National Park Service, Rainbow Bridge National Monument is one of the world's most unique destinations. The popular outdoor attraction can only be accessed by backpacking in from Navajo Mountain or boating in from Lake Powell. This remote access preserves some of the world's darkest skies, allowing visitors to see up to 15,000 stars. To put that into perspective, only about 500 stars can be seen in some urban environments.

Not surprisingly, the IDSA has awarded various dark sky designations to several other locations throughout Utah's Canyon Country. Natural Bridges National Monument, Canyonlands National Park and

Hovenweep National Monument are International Dark Sky Parks—locations with exceptional starry nights that has been protected for scientific, natural, educational, cultural heritage or public enjoyment. Natural Bridges was actually the first location in the world to be named an International Dark Sky Park.

Those who visit Utah's Canyon Country are often surprised by the magnificence of the region's night skies. Only about one in 10 Americans reside in a location where 2,500 stars can be visible under normal conditions. Fortunately for residents of this area, perfect stargazing locations are right in their backyard, making the region an ideal place to enjoy the beauty of the night sky.

Ranger-led Dark Sky Programs

Hovenweep National Monument
Friday-Sunday at 9:30 pm

Natural Bridges National Monument
Friday-Sunday at 9 p.m.

Programs are offered throughout the summer (free admission)





July Events

Planets Astronomy Program
Friday, July 13th; 8:30-10:00pm
 \$3/person, \$12/family, FREE for members
 Five planets will be out and visible in the night sky, come check them out through our telescopes!

Exploring Lunar Eclipses Astronomy Program
Friday, July 27th; 8:30-10:00pm
 \$3/person, \$12/family, FREE for members
 Learn about lunar eclipses with hands-on activities and explore the night sky through our telescopes.

<http://ccdiscovery.org> 1117 N. Main Street
 Monticello, UT 84535

JULY SUNRISE & SUNSET TIMES

(The time of sunrise and sunset assumes a flat horizon. Actual time may vary depending upon the landscape.)

DATE	SUNRISE	SUNSET
1	5:58 am	8:46 pm
2	5:58 am	8:46 pm
3	5:59 am	8:46 pm
4	5:59 am	8:45 pm
5	6:00 am	8:45 pm
6	6:00 am	8:45 pm
7	6:01 am	8:45 pm
8	6:02 am	8:44 pm
9	6:02 am	8:44 pm
10	6:03 am	8:44 pm
11	6:04 am	8:43 pm
12	6:04 am	8:43 pm
13	6:05 am	8:42 pm
14	6:06 am	8:42 pm
15	6:06 am	8:41 pm
16	6:07 am	8:41 pm
17	6:08 am	8:40 pm
18	6:09 am	8:39 pm
19	6:09 am	8:39 pm
20	6:10 am	8:38 pm
21	6:11 am	8:37 pm
22	6:12 am	8:37 pm
23	6:13 am	8:36 pm
24	6:14 am	8:35 pm
25	6:14 am	8:34 pm
26	6:15 am	8:33 pm
27	6:16 am	8:32 pm
28	6:17 am	8:31 pm
29	6:18 am	8:31 pm
30	6:19 am	8:30 pm
31	6:19 am	8:29 pm

MOON HAPPENINGS

July 19 - First Quarter at 1:52 pm
 July 27 - Full Moon at 2:20 pm

