

## WORLD LIST OF DARK SKY PROTECTED AREAS

Updated 15th March 2013

This is a list of dark sky protected areas that incorporate one or more protected heritage areas. The information is been collected by members of the IUCN Dark Skies Advisory Group and is correct to the best of our knowledge. The list will be updated whenever we receive new information. For more details on these dark sky places, please search for authoritative web sites or contact the appropriate management agencies directly.

Please send corrections and additions for this list to [dsag.iucn@gmail.com](mailto:dsag.iucn@gmail.com). Use the current entries to see what information fields and precision are required. Thank you.

### Notes

- Constituent protected areas are listed.
- A central coordinate is presented in decimal latitude and longitude format.
- The area given is that of the constituent protected areas in the IUCN sense. A dark sky reserve, e.g. in the International Dark Sky Association sense, may be larger.
- The recognition information refers to the year of establishment as a dark sky place, not of the constituent protected area(s).
- Web sites are listed as starting points for further searching. These sites are not necessarily the official web site of the management agency.
- DSAG Class. A system of dark sky place types developed by DSAG to allow comparisons across different naming styles used in different countries and by different recognizing bodies. In cases where two or more classes could apply, the lower numbered class is given.
  - 1 **Starlight Reserve**: astronomy observatory site and surrounding area
  - 2 **Dark Sky Park**: protected natural area
    - 2a Park, reserve, habitat, natural area or other ecological protection
    - 2b Unpopulated area set aside for traditional or sacred practices related to the sky
    - 2c Rural area, area of outstanding landscape beauty
  - 3 **Dark Sky Heritage Site**: protected heritage physical works of mankind
  - 4 **Dark Sky Outreach Site**
    - 4a Urban or suburban site
    - 4b Rural site
  - 5 **Dark Sky Reserve**: mix of cooperating community, rural and natural area jurisdictions
  - 6 **Dark Sky Community**: an entire village, town or city.

Dark sky community information is not systematically collected by DSAG, as their focus is not on protected areas. However, for completion, they are listed at the end of this document.

### Totals

Dark sky protected areas: 43

Dark sky communities: 4

## CANADA

### **Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve**

- Elk Island National Park of Canada
- Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area

Central latitude/longitude: 53.6, -112.9. Area: 29,300 hectares

Recognition: 2006, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

[www.rasc.ca/lpa/beaverhills.shtml](http://www.rasc.ca/lpa/beaverhills.shtml)

[www.pc.gc.ca/eng/nature/astronom.aspx](http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/nature/astronom.aspx)

DSAG Class 2a

### **Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre Dark Sky Preserve**

- Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre

Central latitude/longitude: 44.7, -81.2. Area: 130 hectares

Recognition: 2012, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

[www.bluewater-edfoundation.org](http://www.bluewater-edfoundation.org)

DSAG Class 4b

### **Bruce Peninsula Dark Sky Preserve**

- Bruce Peninsula National Park of Canada

Central latitude/longitude: 45.2, -81.5. Area: 16,700 hectares

Recognition: 2009, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

[www.pc.gc.ca/eng/nature/astronom.aspx](http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/nature/astronom.aspx)

DSAG Class 2a

### **Cypress Hills Dark Sky Preserve**

- Cypress Hills Provincial Park (Alberta)
- Cypress Hills Provincial Park (Saskatchewan)
- Fort Walsh National Historic Site of Canada

Central latitude/longitude: 49.7, -110.2. Area: 39,600 hectares

Recognition: 2005, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

[www.rasc.ca/lpa/cypresshills.shtml](http://www.rasc.ca/lpa/cypresshills.shtml)

[www.pc.gc.ca/eng/nature/astronom.aspx](http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/nature/astronom.aspx)

DSAG Class 2a

### **Fundy Dark Sky Preserve**

- Fundy National Park of Canada

Central latitude/longitude: 45.6, -65.1. Area: 20,600 hectares

Recognition: 2011, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

[www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/nb/fundy/nateul/ciel-sky.aspx](http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/nb/fundy/nateul/ciel-sky.aspx)

DSAG Class 2a

### **Gordon's Park Dark Sky Preserve**

- Gordon's Park

Central latitude/longitude: 45.7, -82.0. Area: 108 hectares

Recognition: 2008, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

[www.rasc.ca/content/gordons-park-dark-sky-preserve](http://www.rasc.ca/content/gordons-park-dark-sky-preserve)

<http://gordonspark.com/astronomy/>

DSAG Class 4b

### **Grasslands Dark Sky Preserve**

- Grasslands National Park of Canada  
Central latitude/longitude: 49.1, -107.4. Area: 52,700 hectares  
Recognition: 2009, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada  
[www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pa-np/sk/grasslands/index.aspx](http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pa-np/sk/grasslands/index.aspx)  
[www.pc.gc.ca/eng/nature/astronom.aspx](http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/nature/astronom.aspx)  
DSAG Class 2a

### **Irving Urban Star Park**

- Irving Nature Park  
Central latitude/longitude: 45.2, -66.1. Area: 243 hectares  
Recognition: 2011, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada  
[http://new-brunswick.net/Saint\\_John/inp/](http://new-brunswick.net/Saint_John/inp/)  
DSAG Class 4a

### **Jasper Dark Sky Preserve**

- Jasper National Park of Canada  
Central latitude/longitude: 52.9, -118.0. Area: 1,122,800 hectares  
Recognition: 2011, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada  
[www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/ab/jasper/index.aspx](http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/ab/jasper/index.aspx)  
DSAG Class 2a

### **Kejimikujik Dark Sky Preserve**

- Kejimikujik National Park of Canada  
Central latitude/longitude: 44.4, -65.2. Area: 40,370 hectares  
Recognition: 2010, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada  
[www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/ns/kejimikujik/index.aspx](http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/ns/kejimikujik/index.aspx)  
DSAG Class 2a

### **Kouchibouguac Dark Sky Preserve**

- Kouchibouguac National Park of Canada  
Central latitude/longitude: 46.8, -65.0. Area: 23,920 hectares  
Recognition: 2009, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada  
[www.pc.gc.ca/eng/nature/astronom.aspx](http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/nature/astronom.aspx)  
DSAG Class 2a

### **McDonald Park Dark Sky Preserve**

- McDonald Park (Abbotsford, British Columbia)  
Central latitude/longitude: 49.1, -122.2. Area: 2,225 hectares  
Recognition: 2003, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada  
[www.fvas.net/dsp.html](http://www.fvas.net/dsp.html)  
DSAG Class 4a

### **Mont-Mégantic International Dark Sky Reserve**

- Mont-Mégantic National Park of Québec  
Central latitude/longitude: 45.5, -71.2. Area: 5,845 hectares  
Recognition: 2007, International Dark Sky Association  
[www.sepaq.com/pq/mme/](http://www.sepaq.com/pq/mme/)  
DSAG Class 1

### **Mount Carleton Dark Sky Preserve**

- Mount Carleton Provincial Park
- Central latitude/longitude: 47.4, -66.9. Area: 17,427 hectares  
Recognition: 2009, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada  
<http://tourismnewbrunswick.ca/Product.aspx?pid=1373#ec1996>  
DSAG Class 2a

### **Point Pelee Dark Sky Preserve**

- Point Pelee National Park of Canada
- Central latitude/longitude: 42.0, -82.5. Area: 2,000 hectares  
Recognition: 2006, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada  
[www.rasc.ca/lpa/pointpelee.shtml](http://www.rasc.ca/lpa/pointpelee.shtml)  
[www.pc.gc.ca/eng/nature/astronom.aspx](http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/nature/astronom.aspx)  
DSAG Class 2a

### **Torrance Barrens Dark Sky Reserve**

- Torrance Barrens Conservation and Dark Sky Reserve
- Central latitude/longitude: 44.9, -79.5. Area: 1,990 hectares  
Recognition: 1999, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada  
[www.rasc.ca/lpa/torrancebarrens.shtml](http://www.rasc.ca/lpa/torrancebarrens.shtml)  
DSAG Class 2a

## **CZECH REPUBLIC**

### **Beskydy Dark Sky Park**

- Beskydy Protected Landscape Area (includes many nature reserves and national monuments)
- Central latitude/longitude: 49.5, 18.5. Area: 22,230 hectares  
Recognition: 2013: Czech Astronomical Society, Beskydy Protected Landscape Area and Czech Republic Forests - Forestry Office Ostravice  
[www.boto.cz](http://www.boto.cz)  
DSAG Class 2b  
See also joint entry with Slovakia

### **Izera Dark Sky Park**

- Jizerske hory Protected Landscape Area
  - Bukovec Nature Reserve
  - Raseliniste Jizery National Nature Reserve
  - Rybi Loucky Nature Reserve
- Central latitude/longitude: 50.8, 15.3. Area: 3,600 hectares  
Recognition: 2009: Astronomical Institute of the Academy of Sciences; Protected Landscape Area Jizerske hory; Liberec Regional Directorate of Czech Republic Forests  
[www.izera-darksky.eu](http://www.izera-darksky.eu)  
DSAG Class 2a  
See also the joint entry with Poland

## **HUNGARY**

### **Hortobágy Starry-Sky Park**

- Hortobágy National Park

Central latitude/longitude: 47.6, 21.1. Area: 82,000.0 hectares

Recognition: 2011, International Dark Sky Association

[www.hnp.hu](http://www.hnp.hu)

[www.csillagpark.hu](http://www.csillagpark.hu)

DSAG Class 2a

### **Zselic Starry-Sky Park**

- Zselic Landscape Protection Area (Duna-Dráva National Park Directorate)

Central latitude/longitude: 46.4, 18.3. Area: 9,042 hectares

Recognition: 2009, International Dark Sky Association; 2006, Hungarian Astronomical Association

[www.astro-zselic.hu](http://www.astro-zselic.hu)

DSAG Class 2a

## **NAMIBIA**

### **NamibRand International Dark Sky Reserve**

- NamibRand Nature Reserve

Central latitude/longitude: -25.1, 16.0. Area: 172,200 hectares

Recognition 2012, International Dark Sky Association

[www.namibrand.com/](http://www.namibrand.com/)

DSAG Class 2a

## **NEW ZEALAND**

### **Aoraki/Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve**

- Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park

Central latitude/longitude: -43.6, 170.3. Area: 70,696 hectares

Recognition: 2012. International Dark Sky Association

[http://earthandskynz.com/earthandsky/astro\\_cafe/astro\\_cafe.html](http://earthandskynz.com/earthandsky/astro_cafe/astro_cafe.html)

DSAG Class 1

## POLAND

### **Bieszczady Starry-Sky Park**

- East Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, consisting of:
  - Bieszczady National Park
  - San Valley Landscape Park
  - Cisna-Wetlina Landscape

Central latitude/longitude: 49.2, 22.47. Area: 113,846 hectares

Recognition: 2013. Administrative districts Lutowiska and Komancza; Bieszczady National Park in Ustrzyki Gorne; Administration of the Carpathian Landscape Parks in Krosno; The State Forests National Forest Holding - District Lutowiska and Stuposiany; Faculty of Environmental Engineering of the University of Technology of Cracow; Pedagogical University of Cracow - Mt. Suhora Astronomical Observatory; Bieszczady Foundation; Bieszczady Regional Development Agency; The Carpathian Wildlife Foundation; Joint Schools in Lutowiska

[www.gwiezdnebieszczady.pl](http://www.gwiezdnebieszczady.pl)

DSAG class 1

### **Izera Dark Sky Park**

- Torfowiska Doliny Izery Nature Reserve

Central latitude/longitude: 50.8, 15.4. Area: 3,850 hectares

Recognition: 2009. Astronomical Institute of the University of Wroclaw; Polish State Forests, Forestry Commission Swieradow; Polish State Forests, Forestry Commission Szklarska Poreba

[www.izera-darksky.eu](http://www.izera-darksky.eu)

DSAG Class 2a

See also the joint entry with the Czech Republic.

## SLOVAKIA

### **Beskydy Dark Sky Park**

- Kysuce Protected Landscape Area (includes two national monuments)

Central latitude/longitude: 49.4, 18.5. Area: 8,570 hectares

Recognition: 2013: Kysuce Protected Landscape Area and Slovak Astronomical Society of Slovak Academy of Sciences

[www.boto.cz](http://www.boto.cz)

DSAG Class 2b

See also joint entry with Czech Republic

### **Poloniny Dark Sky Park**

- Poloniny National Park; villages of Kolonica, Ladomirov, Kalná Roztoka, Klenová, and Ruská Volová

Central latitude/longitude: 49.0, 22.4. Area: 48,519.0 hectares

Recognition: 2010, Slovak Union of Amateur Astronomers

[www.poloniny.svetelneznecistenie.sk](http://www.poloniny.svetelneznecistenie.sk)

DSAG Class 2a

## SPAIN

### **Fuerteventura Starlight Reserve**

- Core Area of the Fuerteventura Biosphere Reserve
- Betancuria Natural Protected Area
- Jandía Natural Park

Central latitude/longitude: 28.44, -14.10. Area: 60,517.0 hectares

Recognition: 2009, Starlight Foundation

[www.gestion.cabildofuer.es/fuerteventurabiosfera/](http://www.gestion.cabildofuer.es/fuerteventurabiosfera/)

[www.starlight2007.net/pdf/FuerteventuraReservaStarlight.pdf](http://www.starlight2007.net/pdf/FuerteventuraReservaStarlight.pdf)

DSAG Class 5

### **La Palma Starlight Reserve**

- La Caldera de Taburiente National Park
- Pinar de Garafía Natural Reserve
- Las Nieves Natural Park
- Cumbre Vieja Natural Park

Central latitude/longitude: 28.71, -17.86. Area: 18,627.0 hectares

Recognition: 2011, Starlight Foundation

[www.gobcan.es/cmayot/espaciosnaturales/informacion/lapal\\_todo.html](http://www.gobcan.es/cmayot/espaciosnaturales/informacion/lapal_todo.html)

[www.lapalmabiosfera.es/](http://www.lapalmabiosfera.es/)

DSAG Class 1

### **La Rioja Biosphere Reserve Starlight Reserve**

- Core Area of the La Rioja Biosphere Reserve

Central latitude/longitude: 42.01, -2.01. Area: 5,983 hectares

Recognition: 2011, Starlight Foundation

[www.larioja.org/npRioja/default/defaultpage.jsp?idtab=432421](http://www.larioja.org/npRioja/default/defaultpage.jsp?idtab=432421)

DSAG Class 2a

### **Monfragüe Starlight Reserve**

- Monfrague National Park and Biosphere Reserve.

Central latitude/longitude: 39.82, -5.94. Area: 18,118 hectares

Recognition: 2011, Starlight Foundation

[www.extremambiente.es/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=228&Itemid=77](http://www.extremambiente.es/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=228&Itemid=77)

DSAG Class 5

## UNITED KINGDOM

### **Brecon Beacons International Dark Sky Reserve**

- Brecon Beacons National Park

Central latitude/longitude: 51.9, -3.5. Area: 134,679 hectares

Recognition: 2013, International Dark Sky Association

[www.breconbeacons.org](http://www.breconbeacons.org)

DSAG Class 5

### **Exmoor International Dark Sky Reserve**

- Exmoor National Park

Central latitude/longitude: 51.14, -3.65. Area: 69,200 hectares

Recognition: 2011, International Dark Sky Association

[www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/environment/landscape/dark-skies](http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/environment/landscape/dark-skies)

DSAG Class 5

### **Galloway Forest Dark Sky Park**

- Galloway Forest Park  
Central latitude/longitude: 55.1, -4.4. Area: 80,700 hectares  
Recognition: 2009, International Dark Sky Association  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/gallowayforestpark](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/gallowayforestpark)  
DSAG Class 5

## **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

### **Big Bend International Dark Sky Park**

- Big Bend National Park  
Central latitude/longitude: 29.2, -103.2. Area: 324,219 hectares  
Recognition: 2012, International Dark Sky Association  
[www.nps.gov/bibe](http://www.nps.gov/bibe)  
DSAG Class 2a

### **Cherry Springs Dark Sky Park**

- Cherry Springs State Park  
Central latitude/longitude: 41.7, -77.8. Area: 19 hectares  
Recognition: 2000, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
<http://docs.darksky.org/DarkSkyPlaces/cherryspringsIDAnominationversion2.pdf>  
<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/cherrysprings/cherrysprings-darkskies/index.htm>  
DSAG Class 2a

### **Clayton Lake Dark Sky Park**

- Clayton Lake State Park  
Central latitude/longitude: 36.6, -103.3. Area: 231 hectares  
Recognition: 2010, International Dark Sky Association  
[www.emnrd.state.nm.us/PRD/Clayton.htm](http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/PRD/Clayton.htm)  
DSAG Class 2a

### **Death Valley International Dark Sky Park**

- Death Valley National Park  
Central latitude/longitude: 36.5, -117.1. Area: 1,363,000 hectares  
Recognition: 2013, International Dark Sky Association  
[www.nps.gov/deva/naturescience/lightscapes.htm](http://www.nps.gov/deva/naturescience/lightscapes.htm)  
DSAG Class 2a

### **Goldendale Observatory Dark Sky Park**

- Goldendale Observatory State Park  
Central latitude/longitude: 45.8, -120.8. Area: 2 hectares  
Recognition: 2010, International Dark Sky Association  
[www.parks.wa.gov/parks/?selectedpark=Goldendale%20Observatory](http://www.parks.wa.gov/parks/?selectedpark=Goldendale%20Observatory)  
DSAG Class 1

### **Headlands International Dark Sky Park**

- Headlands Park  
Central latitude/longitude: 45.8, -84.8. Area: 242.8 hectares  
Recognition: 2011, International Dark Sky Association  
[http://docs.darksky.org/PR/2011/PR\\_HeadlandsApprovedasIDSPark.pdf](http://docs.darksky.org/PR/2011/PR_HeadlandsApprovedasIDSPark.pdf)  
DSAG Class 2a



### **Lake Hudson Recreation Area Dark Sky Preserve**

- Lake Hudson Recreation Area

Central latitude/longitude: 41.8, -84.3. Area: 890 hectares

Recognition: 1993, Michigan legislation

[www.michigandnr.com/parksandtrails/Details.aspx?id=464&type=SPRK](http://www.michigandnr.com/parksandtrails/Details.aspx?id=464&type=SPRK)

DSAG Class 2c

### **Natural Bridges Dark Sky Park**

- Natural Bridges National Monument

Central latitude/longitude: 37.6, -110.0. Area: 3,091 hectares

Recognition: 2007, International Dark Sky Association

[www.nps.gov/nabr/naturescience/darkskypark.htm](http://www.nps.gov/nabr/naturescience/darkskypark.htm)

DSAG Class 2a

### **Observatory Park International Dark Sky Park**

- Observatory Park

Central latitude/longitude: 41.6, -81.2. Area: 418.4 hectares

Recognition: 2009, International Dark Sky Association

[www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org)

DSAG Class 1

### **Potawatomi Dark-Sky Preserve**

- Potawatomi Wildlife Park

Central latitude/longitude: 41.2, -86.1. Area: 129 hectares

Recognition: 2009, Indiana Council on Lighting Education, Indiana legislation

[www.getintonature.com/activities/astronomy/statement](http://www.getintonature.com/activities/astronomy/statement)

DSAG Class 2a

## **DARK SKY COMMUNITIES**

All are DSAG Class 6. All are designations of the International Dark Sky Association. See [darksky.org](http://darksky.org) for more information.

United Kingdom: Sark.

United States of America: Homer Glen; Borrego Springs; Flagstaff.