

Want to see the northern lights tonight? Here's how to view the Aurora Borealis in person or online

Madison Vanderberg March 14, 2018 10:35 am



A solar storm is upon us, but don't freak out — the biggest effect of a solar storm is the chance to glimpse the beautiful aurora borealis. The northern lights will be visible tonight, and if you live in one of the ~Aurora Watch~ spots, you might catch a glimpse with your own eyes. So where can you see the northern lights tonight? The best visibility is in Northern Scotland, and AuroraWatch UK told Sky News that parts of Northern England and Ireland might also catch a glimpse if the storm is stronger than predicted.

If you live in the U.S., the Space Weather Prediction Center (SPWC) forecasts that you'll be able to see the lights in Montana, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Maine.

According to this graph (the green line indicates areas with increased visibility), Norway and parts of Sweden and Finland will also have good vantage points.

So, how do you best view the northern lights?

If you live in one of the aforementioned "watch zones," the best option for getting a clear view of the light show is to find an outdoor area with dark skies free of light pollution (think high-altitude and rural areas) and face north.

If you don't live in one of the prime viewing areas, you can live stream the northern lights. Explore.org has 24/7 North Lights cams above Churchill, Manitoba, Canada, and [Earthcam has a live stream from Iceland](#). Also, searching "northern lights live stream" tonight on Youtube will usually bring up last-minute additions to the aurora watch.