



Société Astronomique
de Genève

La nuit est belle : turning off public lighting in Greater Geneva

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How to choose a suitable site for star gazing in your commune on September 26, 2019 ? (Written on August 24, 2019)

Clear Horizon

In order to get a good view of the planets Saturn and Jupiter, you need a site with a clear view to the South/South-West as shown on the map of the sky below, which is a simulation of the sky on September 26, 2019, at 9.10 p.m. These two planets will be 15° above the horizon.



The centre of our galaxy (The Milky Way) will also be visible in this direction.

Viewing Site

Try to find a piece of flat ground for the viewing site.

Avoid proximity

- Roads, etc
Avoid being near to roads where headlights of passing traffic would spoil your night viewing.
- Buildings etc.
Houses, etc with lights on indoors can spoil your night viewing.

Good advice

It is a good idea to check your viewing site before the event to see where lighting might be counter-productive.

Clothes

Best to wear light-coloured clothing while outside during the night.

How to see where you are going

Best to have a torch :

- with white light in the streets to walk
- red light in the location where sky gazing will happen, not white light

White light causes the pupil of the eye to close quickly while red light has much less impact at night on the eye which can be very performant in dim light.

The human eye needs up to 20 minutes to adapt to night vision. When the pupil is open to a maximum, you will be able to see the beauty of the night sky at its best.

Smartphones

In line with the above, please avoid using your smartphones which have a very bright light (therefore disturbing), during these public events.

Smartphones

Au vu de ce qui précède, éviter l'usage des smartphones qui sont très lumineux (donc gênants) lors de rassemblements publics.

Seats

Have seats available to watch the sky in a comfortable position, maybe shooting stars will be appear thanks to the reduced light pollution.

“It is high time to relight the stars”

Guillaume Apollinaire