

Iceland at Night

Dark skies for astro tourism

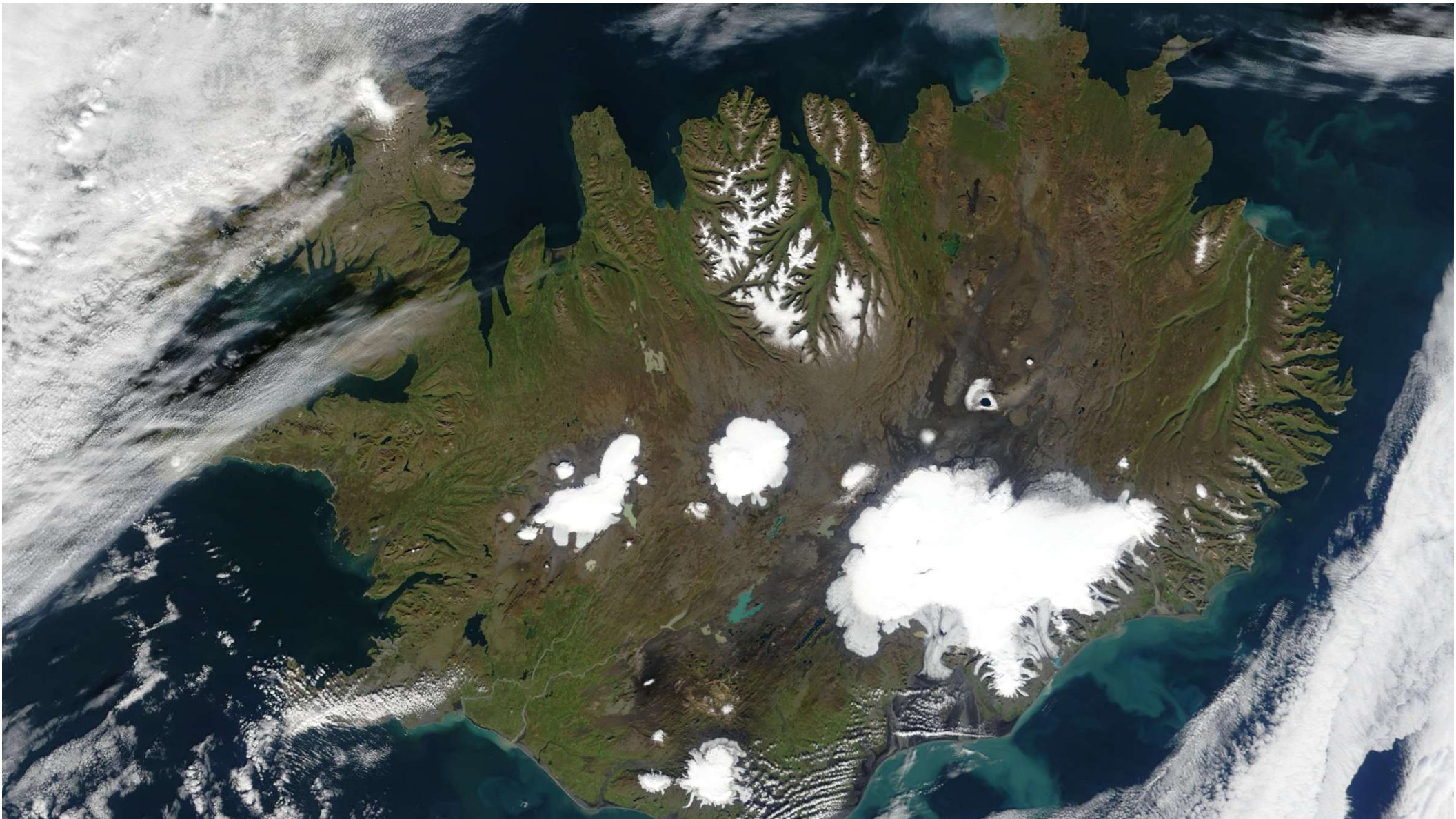
[Sævar Helgi Bragason](#)

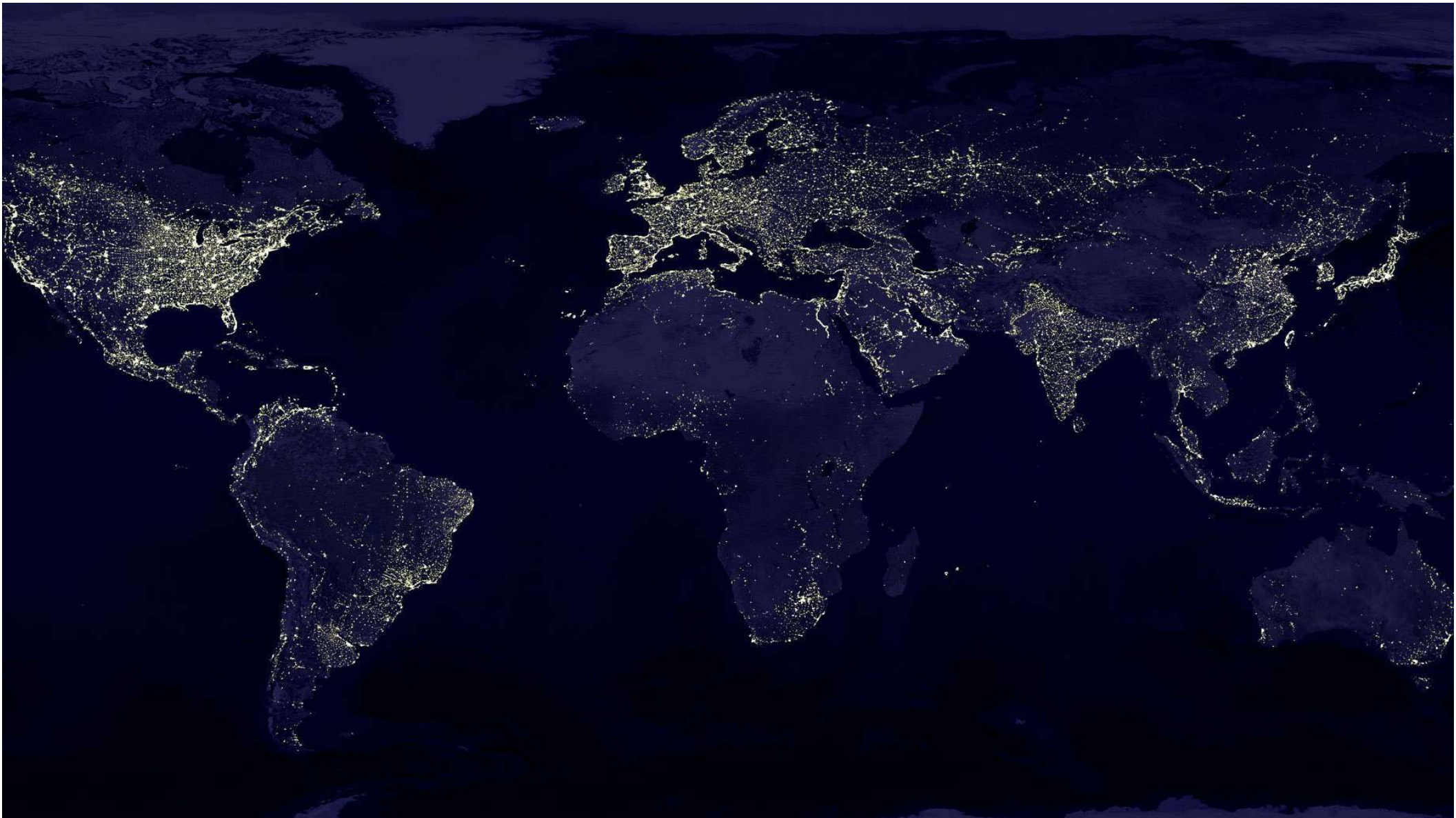
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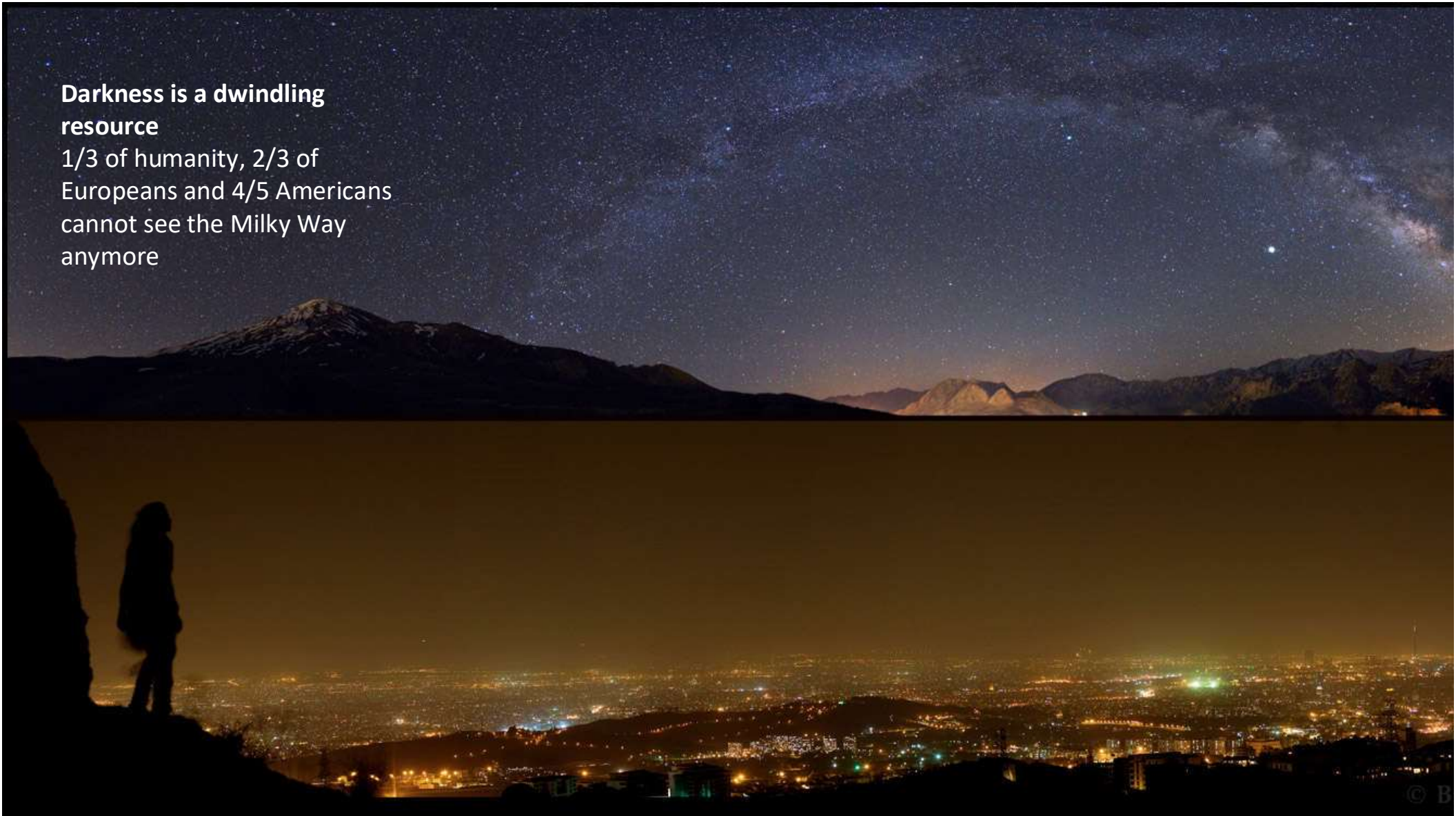
Starry Night over Fjallsárlón
Mynd: Babak Tafreshi

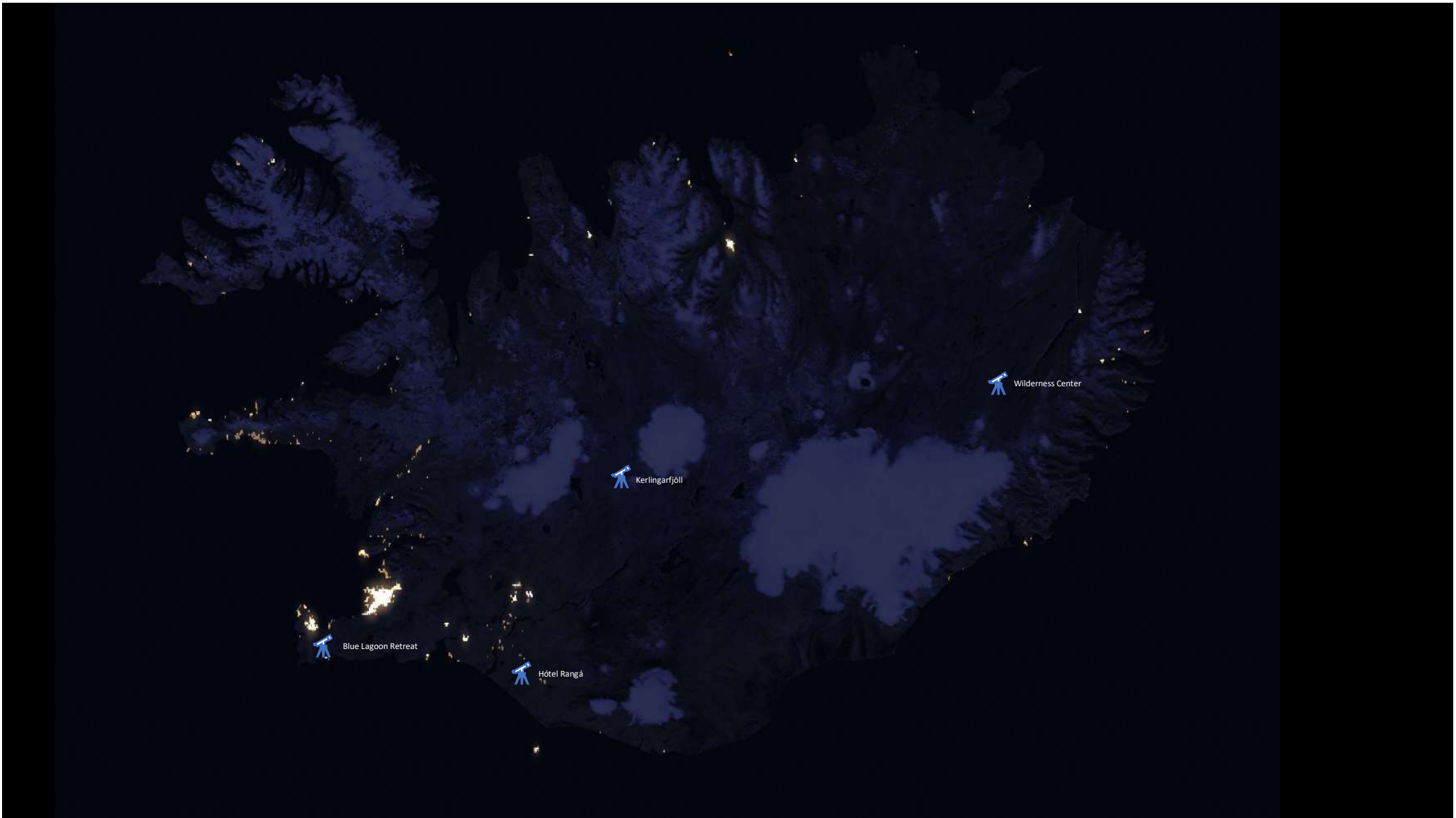




**Darkness is a dwindling
resource**

1/3 of humanity, 2/3 of
Europeans and 4/5 Americans
cannot see the Milky Way
anymore





Blue Lagoon Retreat

Hótel Rangá


Kerlingarfjöll

Wilderness Center

A pristine night sky is a
precious resource



Milky Way above Öxarárfoss, Þingvellir National Park, part of the Golden Circle
Credit: Babak Tafreshi

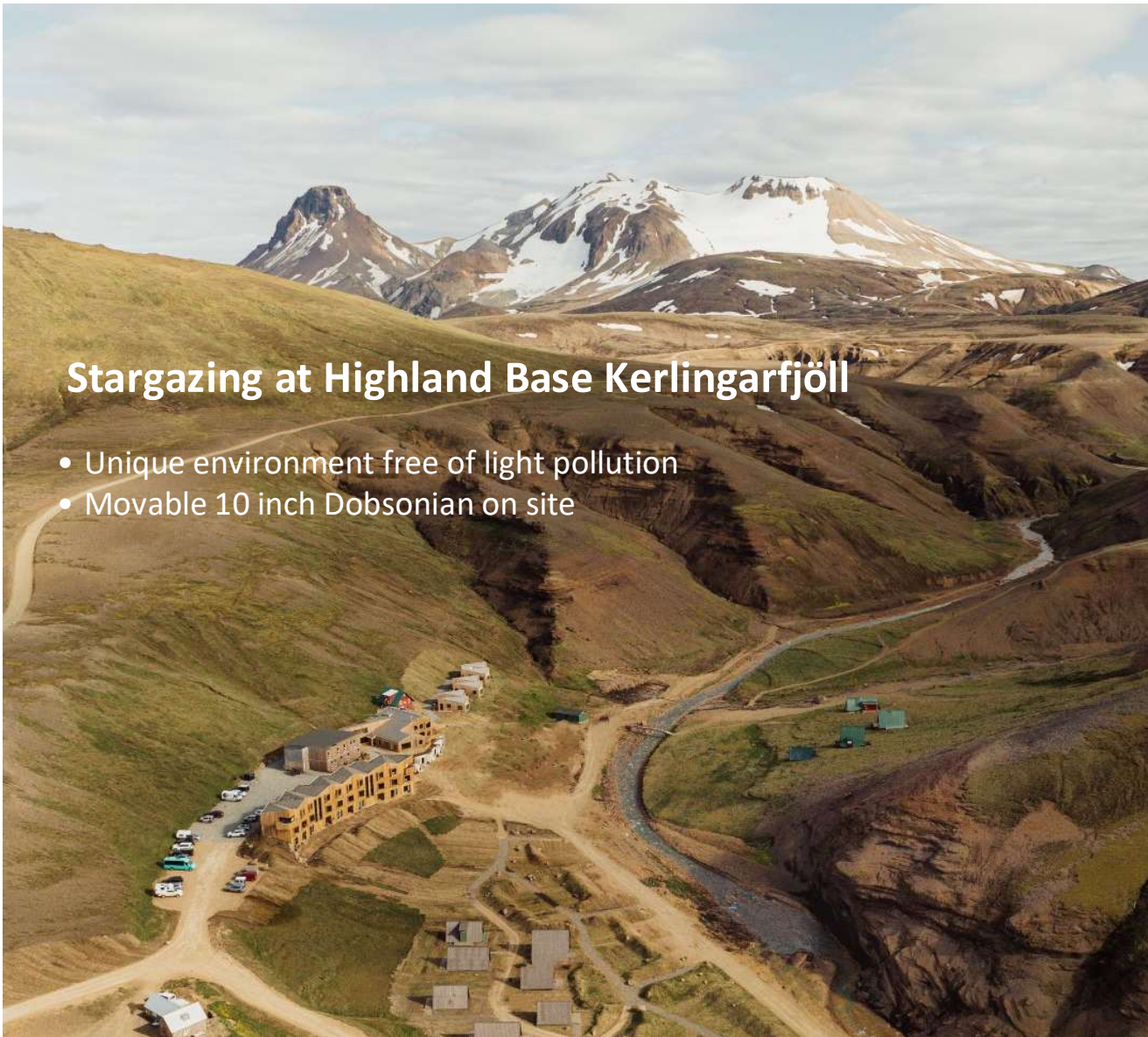
A group of people are gathered on the rooftop of a wooden observatory, looking through large computerized telescopes. The sky is dark with a vibrant green aurora borealis (Northern Lights) visible. The observatory is illuminated from within, and the people are wearing winter clothing. The scene is set in a rural, open landscape under a starry night sky.

Stargazing at Hótel Rangá

- Two high quality computerized telescopes
- Best observatory in Iceland
- Everyone welcome

Stargazing at Highland Base Kerlingarfjöll

- Unique environment free of light pollution
- Movable 10 inch Dobsonian on site



Stars and Northern Lights

The Night Sky is half of the visible nature. In order to enjoy it, dressing well and learn what's up there is key.



Lunar rainbow or Moonbow
Rainbow at night due to light from
the (almost) full Moon



Moonbow over Skógafoss
Credit: Sævar Helgi Bragason

Total Solar Eclipse
Nature's most awesome
spectacle

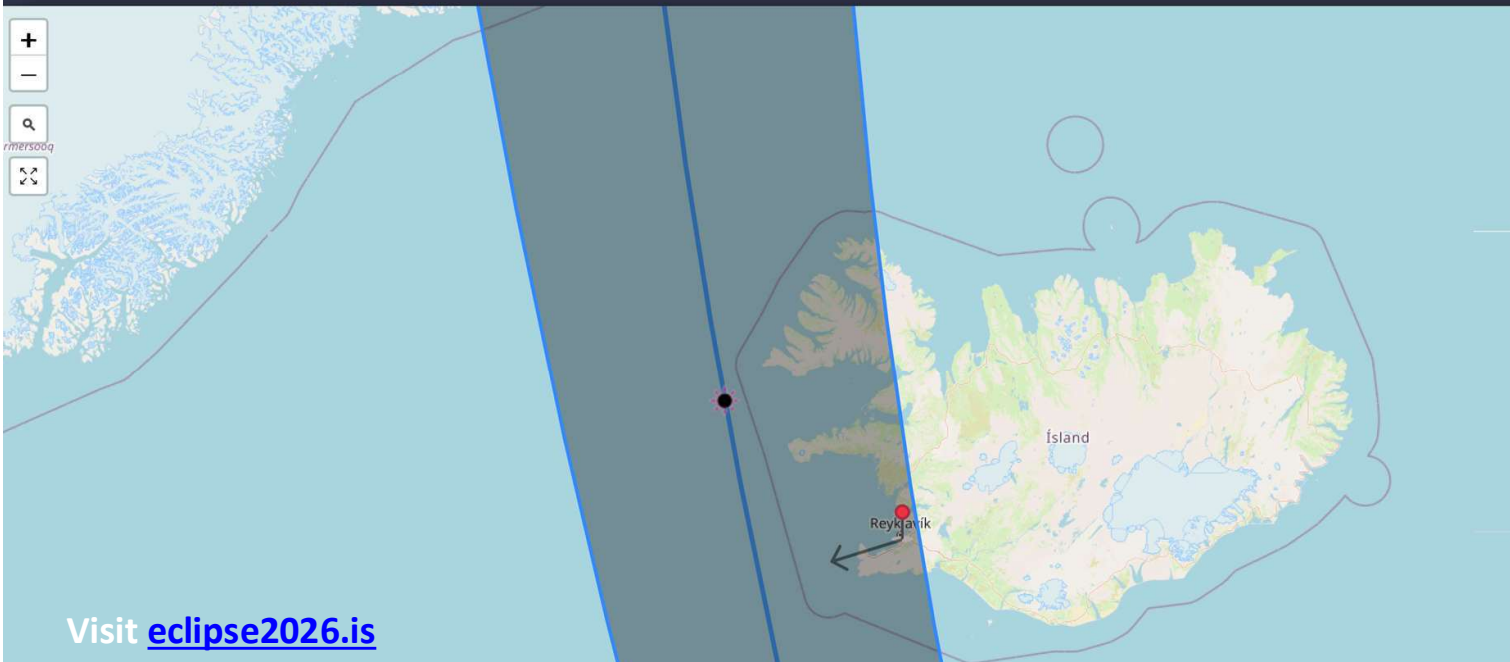




Where to see?

Where will you be on August 12, 2026?

Glacially carved fjords, volcanic features or geothermal spas? Where will you be to watch the August 12, 2026 total solar eclipse? The path of totality crosses many picturesque and unique sites in the westernmost part of [Iceland](#). Press on the map below to see local circumstances.




Visit eclipse2026.is

Total Eclipse! ✕

At this location you will experience a **100%** total solar eclipse lasting for 58s.
Total duration of the eclipse will be 2h 25s.

Event	Time
Partial begins	16:47:16
Totality begins	17:48:21
Maximum Eclipse	17:48:50
Totality ends	17:49:19
Partial ends	18:47:41

Sun ↑ 24.5°
252.8° ← W






Totality

pse
Helgi Bragason



Northern Lights and Noctilucent Clouds on August 6th, 2024
Credit: Björn Jónsson



Geminids

Often year's best meteor
shower, peaks December 13/14.





September 12 2023 bolide/fireball as seen from the Arctic Henge at Raufarhöfn, northeast Iceland



The Winter Way – *Milky Way*

Best seen from Iceland in the evening during fall.

Ash of Yggdrasill, the mythical tree

The Ash of Yggdrasil over Reynisdrangar basaltic sea stacks
Credit: Babak Tafreshi

The Winter Sky

Interesting objects visible to the unaided eye, binoculars and small telescopes



Aldebaran in Taurus
Red giant star

Hyades

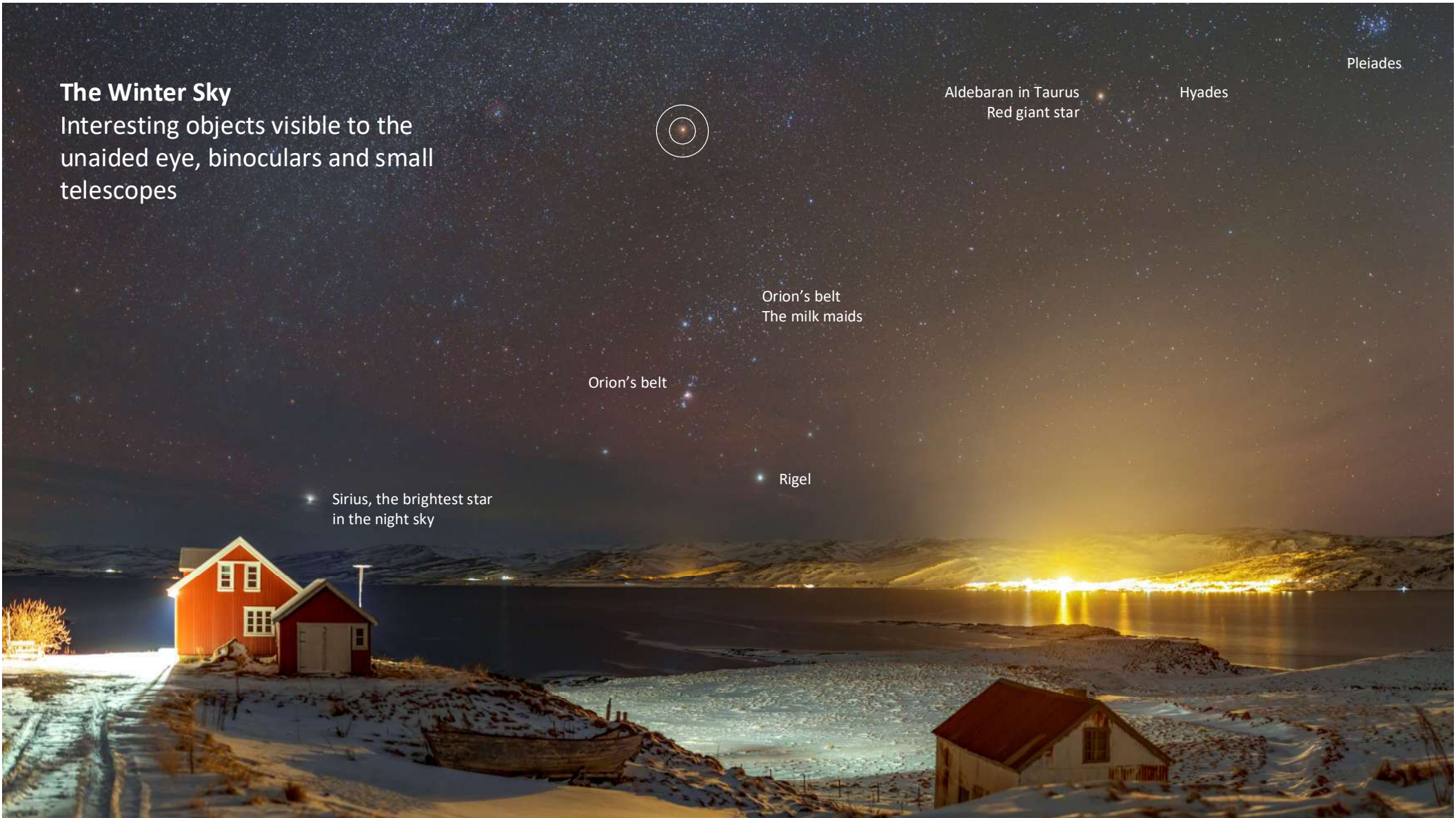
Pleiades

Orion's belt
The milk maids

Orion's belt

Rigel

Sirius, the brightest star
in the night sky





The Spring Sky
Looking out of the Milky Way

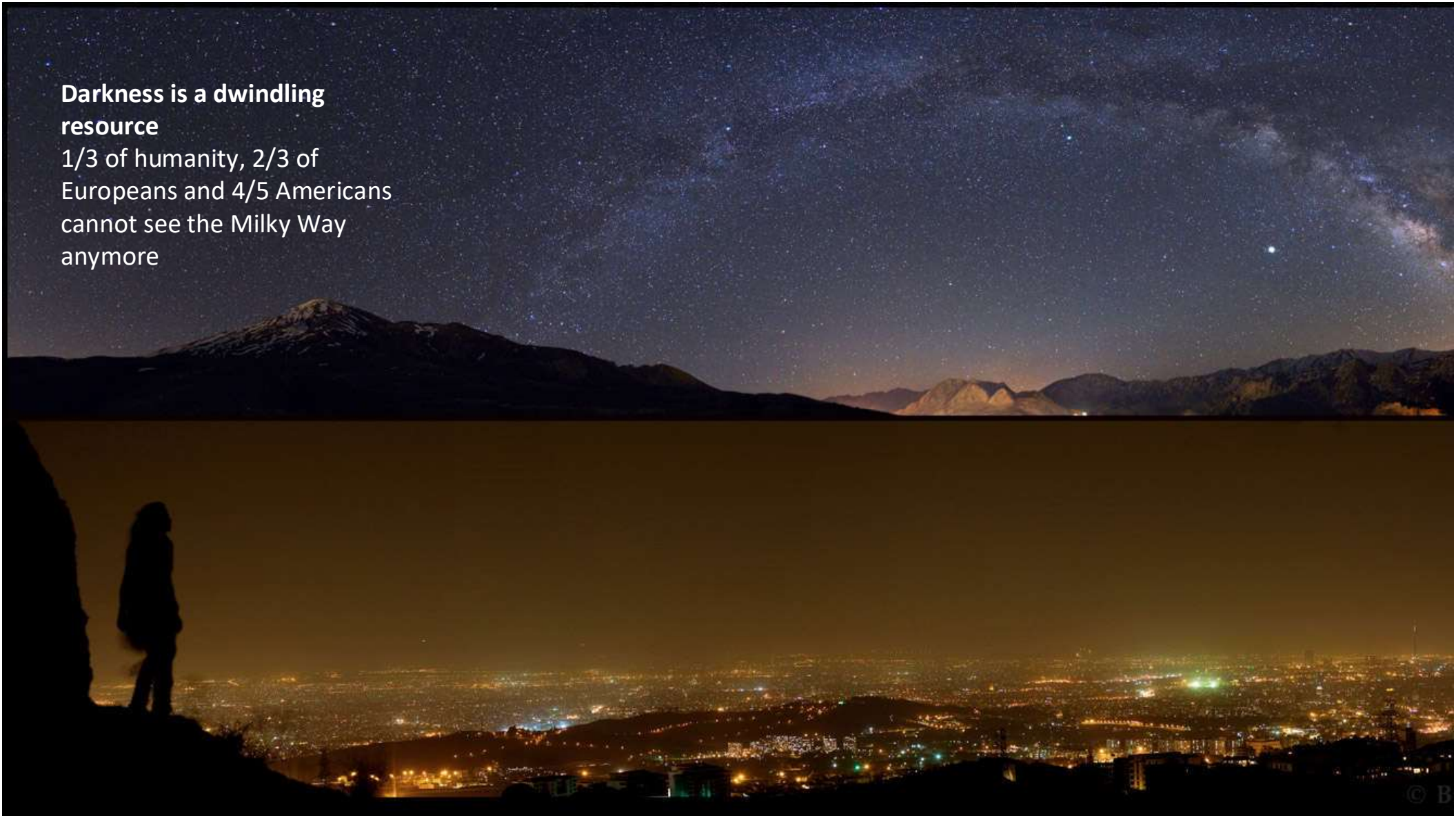




Most colourful and dynamic
during powerful solar storms

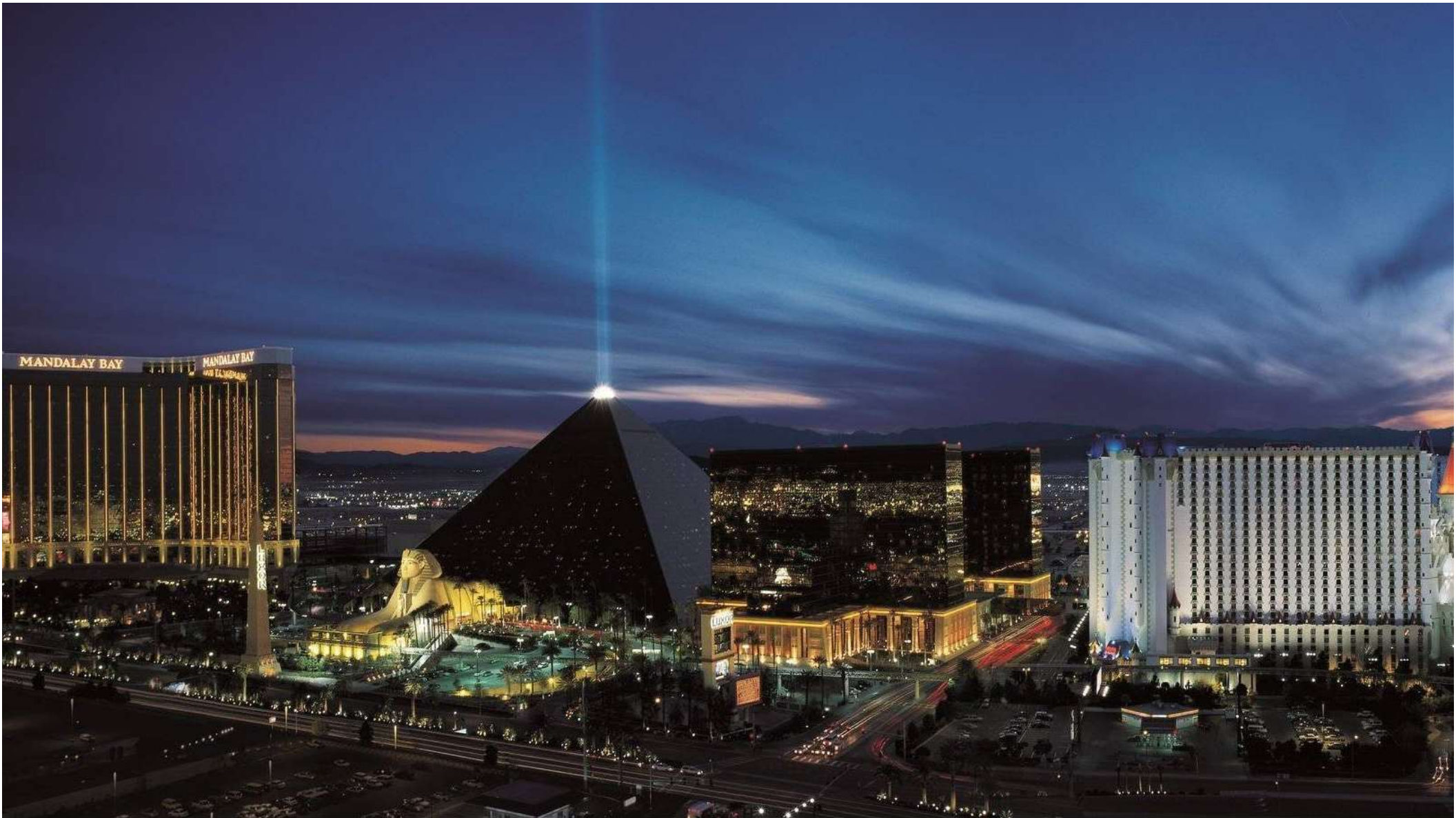
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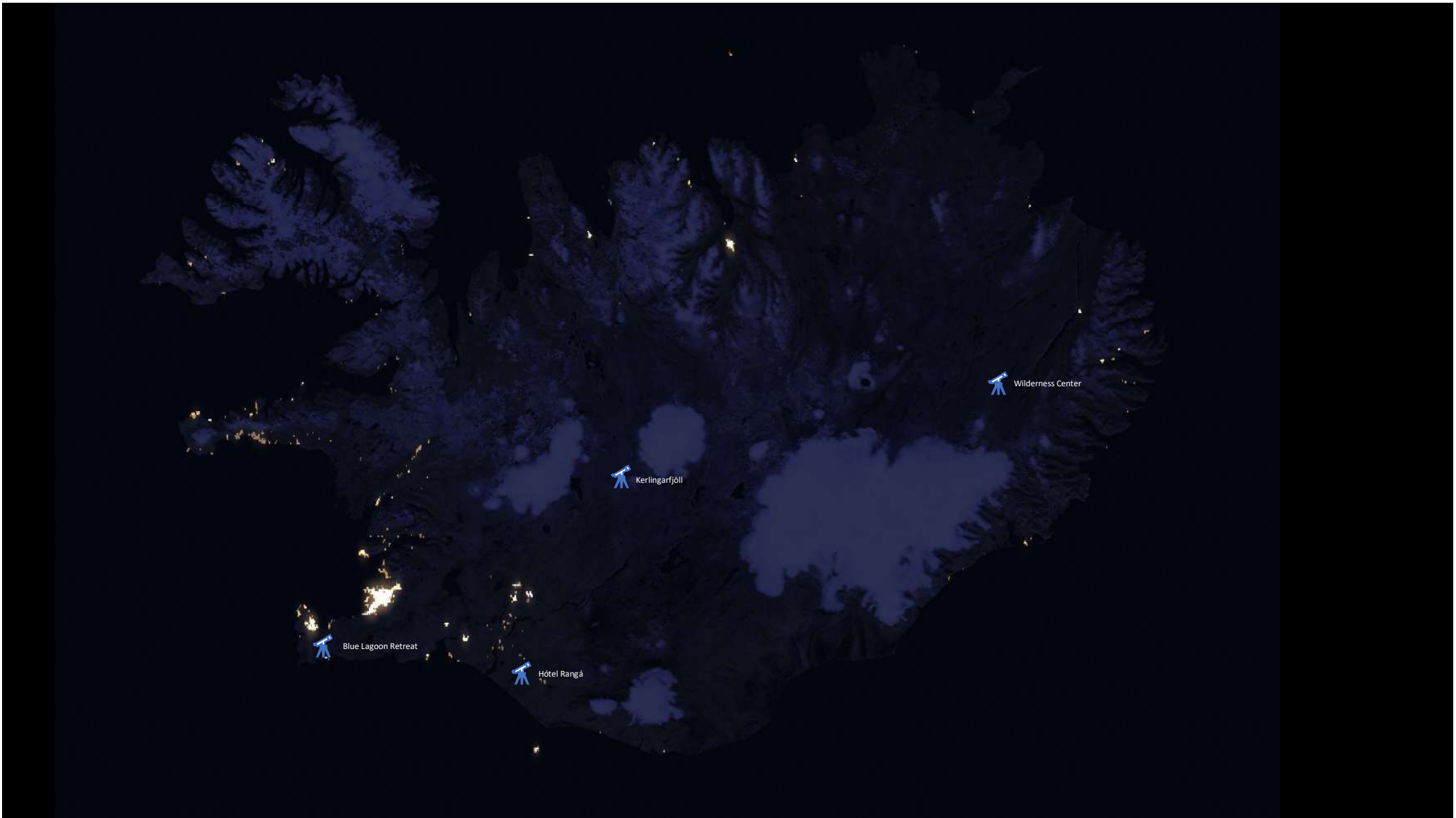




Birds, mammals and insects are attracted to light







Blue Lagoon Retreat

Hótel Rangá

Kerlingarfjöll

Wilderness Center



Harmful effects on wildlife

Light pollution harms mammals, birds, amphibians, insects, and reptiles. It can decrease reproduction, disrupt migration, increase predation, and more.

Light polluted sky

Visible night sky



UNACCEPTABLE

Unshielded

VERY BAD

BAD

BETTER

Fully shielded

BEST



Fully shielded + timer
or motion sensor



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Light pollution is a driver of insect declines

Avalon C.S. Owens ^a, Pr cilla Cochard ^b, Joanna Durrant ^c, Bridgette Farnworth ^d, Elizabeth K. Perkin ^e, Brett Seymoure ^{f, g, h}

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Highlights

- Artificial light at night (ALAN) is used as an insect management tool.
- Recent research addresses global loss of insect biodiversity without including ALAN.
- ALAN causes insect declines due to affecting insect movement, foraging, reproduction, and predation.
- Insect biodiversity loss can be mitigated with better informed lighting

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Noise and light pollution affect breeding habits in birds

Noise and light alter bird nesting habits and success



Scientists are studying how human noise and light pollution affect birds throughout North America.
Credit and Larger Version

November 24, 2020

Looking for a bird's-eye view of human impacts? A new study, published in the journal *Nature*, provides the most comprehensive picture yet of how human noise and light pollution affect birds throughout North America.

The effects of noise and light pollution on the health of bird populations had been largely overlooked until recent studies suggested that these stressors can harm individual species. With this new study by biologists at California Polytechnic State University, a continent-wide picture has emerged.

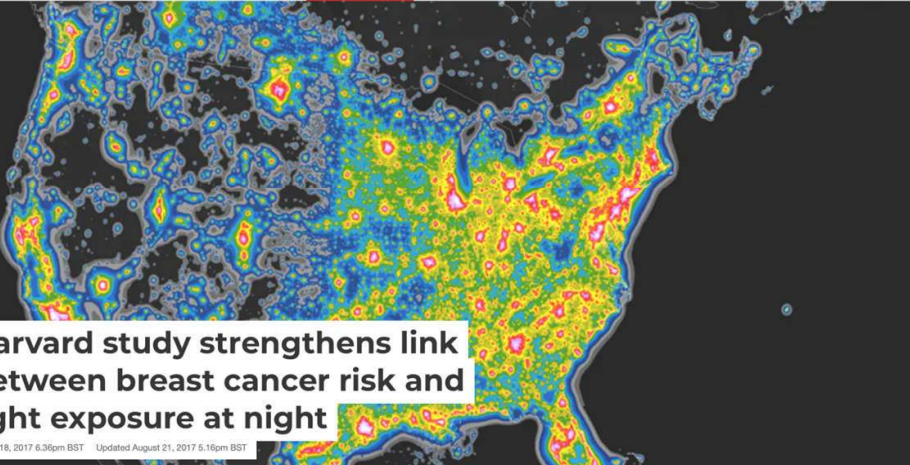
The U.S. National Science Foundation-funded researchers looked at a huge collection of datasets -- including those collected by citizen scientists -- to assess how light and noise affected the reproductive success of 58,506 nests from 142 species across North America.

THE CONVERSATION

Search analysis, research, academics...

rigour, journalistic flair

COVID-19 Arts + Culture Business + Economy Cities Education Environment + Energy Health + Medicine Politics + Society Science + Technology



Harvard study strengthens link between breast cancer risk and light exposure at night

August 18, 2017 6:39pm BST Updated August 21, 2017 5:16pm BST

RESEARCH ARTICLE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Environmental risks from artificial nighttime lighting widespread and increasing across Europe

ALEJANDRO S ANCHEZ DE MIGUEL, JONATHAN BERNER, SARAH ROSENFIELD, SIMON STORRIER, AND YVES J. S AENZ. Authors Info & Affiliations

SCIENCE ADVANCES · 14 Sep 2020 · VOL 6, ISSUE 37 · DOI:10.1126/sciadv.abb0011

Abstract

The nighttime environment of much of Earth is being changed rapidly by the introduction of artificial lighting. While data on spatial and temporal variation in the intensity of artificial lighting have been available at a regional and global scale, data on variation in its spectral composition have only been collected for a few locations, preventing variation in associated environmental and human health risks from being mapped. Here, we use imagery obtained using digital cameras by astronauts on the International Space Station to map variation in the spectral composition of lighting across Europe for 2012–2013 and 2014–2020. These show a regionally widespread spectral shift, from that associated principally with high-pressure sodium lighting to that associated with broad white light-emitting diodes and with greater blue emissions. Reexpressing the color maps in terms of spectral indicators of environmental pressures, we find that this trend is widely increasing the risk of harmful effects to ecosystems.

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Light pollution affects fish even into the next generation

Posted by [Kelly Kizer Whitt](#) | September 27, 2024



Zebrafish exposed to light pollution at night exhibited anxiety-type behaviors. And even the next generation of fish showed an effect. Image via Peter Kuznetsov/ [Pixabay](#).

- **Zebrafish exposed to light pollution at night** showed signs of anxiety, such as swimming less and staying close to aquarium walls.
- **Blue light, like that from phones** and other devices, caused the strongest anxiety reactions, with fish feeling the effects after just five nights.
- **The next generation of zebrafish** also showed anxiety-related behaviors, even without direct exposure to the light, suggesting lasting effects across generations.

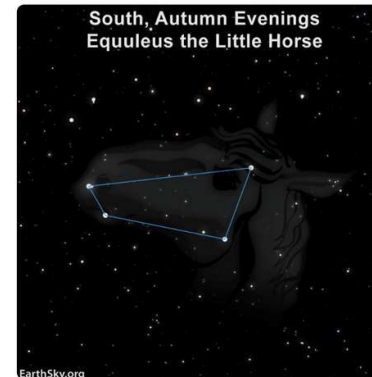


Ertu að flytja? Sendibílar – flutningar – þjónusta.

Flutningaþjónustan ehf

Opna >

Tonight



Equuleus the Little Horse on autumn nights





A dark night is vital to us and the ecosystem. Sustainable use of lighting and space is instrumental



The Ash of Yggdrasil over Reynisdrangar basaltic sea stacks
Credit: Babak Tafreshi



Your guide to northern lights and stargazing in Iceland



 FORLAGIÐ

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 **Iceland**
at night