

Syrjävaara – Dark Sky Center

Known as the darkest municipality in Finland – lies the Syrjävaara Dark Sky Center, the only officially protected dark-sky area in the Nordic countries. Set on one of the region's oldest homesteads, continuously inhabited since the 1660s, Syrjävaara offers a rare gateway to untouched night skies, northern nature, and centuries of rural heritage.

Syrjävaara is located in a truly exceptional place: far from the light pollution of large cities, on a hilltop with an unobstructed, light-pollution-free view toward the auroral oval. The surrounding village produces no wasted artificial light, meaning the sky remains naturally dark and exceptionally clear throughout the year. This unique setting makes the area one of Finland's best locations for observing stars, the Milky Way, and on lucky nights – the northern lights sweeping across the sky.

The Dark Sky Center invites visitors to explore the wonders of astronomy, night-time nature, and cultural history through immersive experiences. Learn how darkness has shaped Finnish life through the ages, discover the science behind star-filled skies, and understand why dark-sky conservation is essential today.

A highlight of every visit is the guided tour into the Astro-Cave, the hilltop observatory, and the atmospheric Barn Gallery – three unique spaces where history, science, and art meet. Whether you are a nature enthusiast, history lover, or aspiring stargazer, Syrjävaara offers an unforgettable journey into Finland's nocturnal beauty.

Opening seasons & prices

Open from July to October
Visits and guided tours available by appointment.
Group size: 5–30 people
Duration: 2+ hours

Café and meal services available by pre-order.

Tickets: 20€ per person

Languages: English

Accessibility: Not accessible, old farm buildings include high thresholds (+30 cm), low doorways,

Contact

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