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# 10 great places to stargaze

Larry Bleiberg for USA TODAY 11:57 a.m. EST November 7, 2012



Big Bend National Park in remote west Texas is one of the darkest parks in the lower 48 states. Tyler Nordgren

As population spreads, we're losing the ability to see the stars, says Bob Parks, executive director of the Tucson-based International Dark-Sky Association ([darksky.org](http://darksky.org)), which certifies recreation areas and communities that have minimized light pollution. Parks will join astronomers and other experts next week in Chile for Noche Zero, a conference about the night skies. He shares with **Larry Bleiberg** for USA TODAY locations that have worked to preserve their view of the heavens.



## **Borrego Springs Southern California**

A designated International Dark-Sky Community, this desert city surrounded by a vast state park has worked diligently to protect its night skies. "The town has done a remarkable job of retrofitting their lighting and protecting the area," Parks says. 760-767-5555; [borregospringschamber.com](http://borregospringschamber.com)