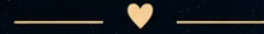




Cysgod y Coed

LUXURY RIVERSIDE RETREATS, BALA



STARGAZING

— G U I D E —



A GUIDE TO THE NIGHT SKY

right here in Snowdonia



LOOK UP. SLOW DOWN. BE INSPIRED.

Because we can







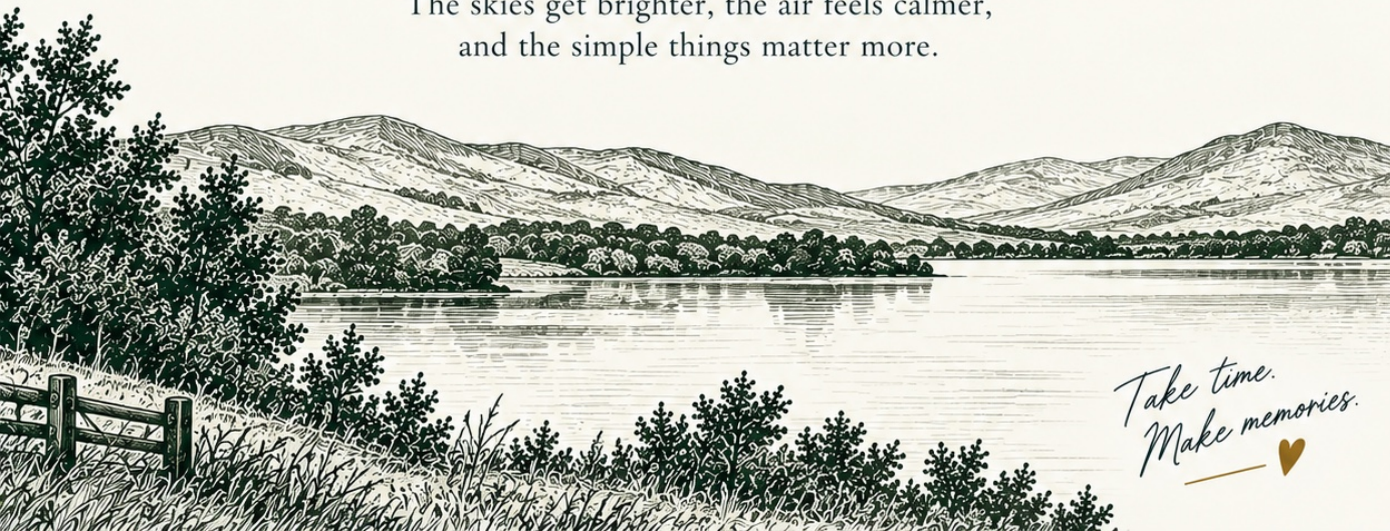
Cysgod y Coed
BALA • NORTH WALES

SLOWER
DAYS
BRIGHTER
MOMENTS

WHERE TIME
Slows Down,
EVENINGS LAST
A LITTLE LONGER.



Here, the day doesn't end,
it just settles into something softer.
The skies get brighter, the air feels calmer,
and the simple things matter more.



*Take time.
Make memories.*









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BALA • NORTH WALES

SLOWER
DAYS
BRIGHTER
MOMENTS

Your Evening at Cysgod y Coed

THE SUN GOES DOWN.
THE LIGHTS COME ON.
AND EVERYTHING SLOWS DOWN.



Cook
something
lovely.



Pour
a drink.



Get
cosy.



Step
outside.



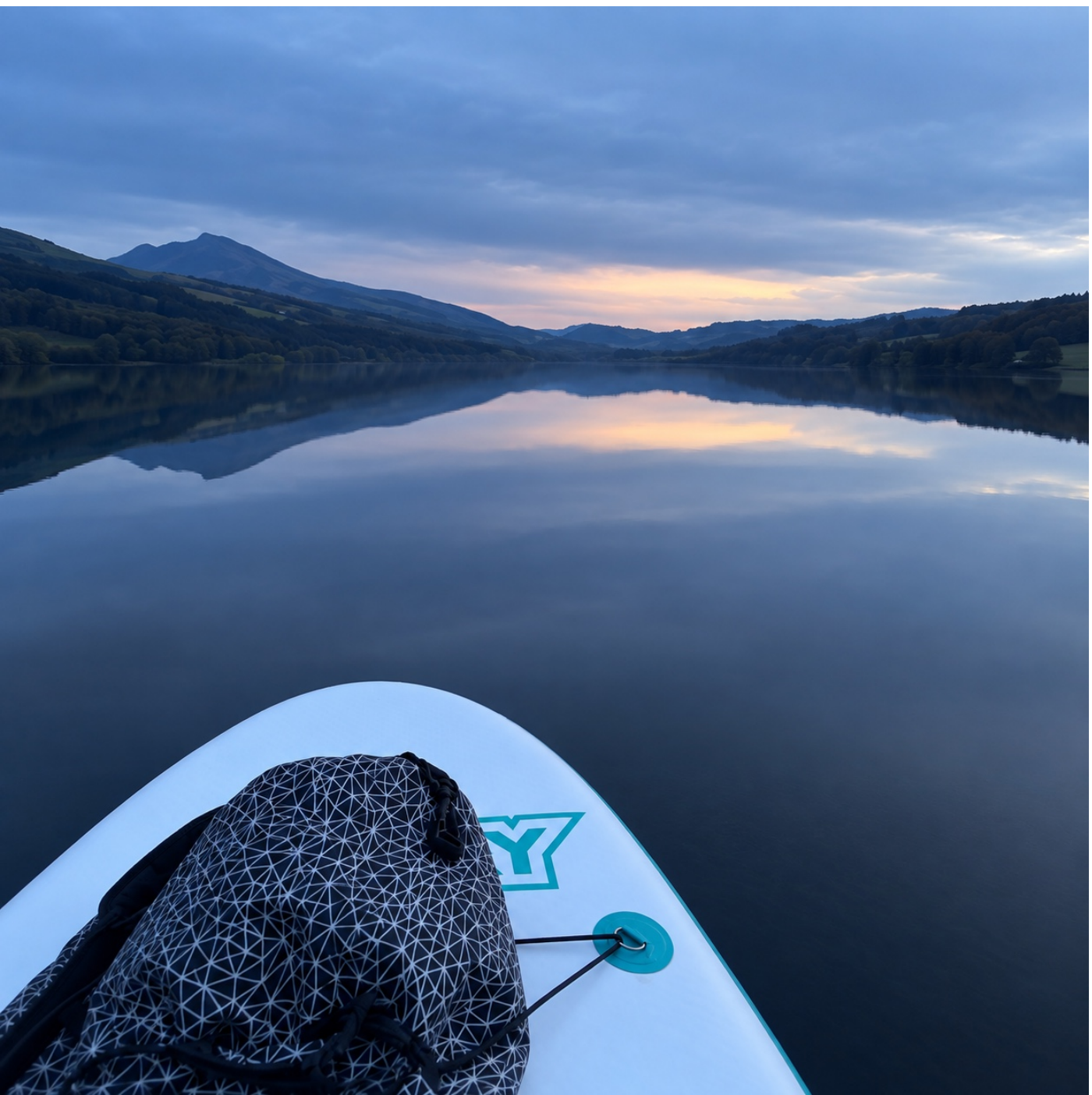
Look
up.



Take time.
Make memories.









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BALA • NORTH WALES

SLOWER
DAYS
BRIGHTER
MOMENTS

A Day at Cysgod y Coed

RELAX • EXPLORE • UNWIND • REPEAT



8:00



MORNING

Enjoy a fresh coffee, take in the views and start the day at a slower pace.

10:00



EXPLORE
BALA

Wander the town, independent shops and cafés, and soak up the friendly, relaxed atmosphere.

13:00



LUNCH

Enjoy delicious food at one of Bala's great cafés, pubs or restaurants.

15:00



AFTERNOON

Get out and explore — walks, the lake, watersports or simply enjoying the beautiful surroundings.

18:00



EVENING

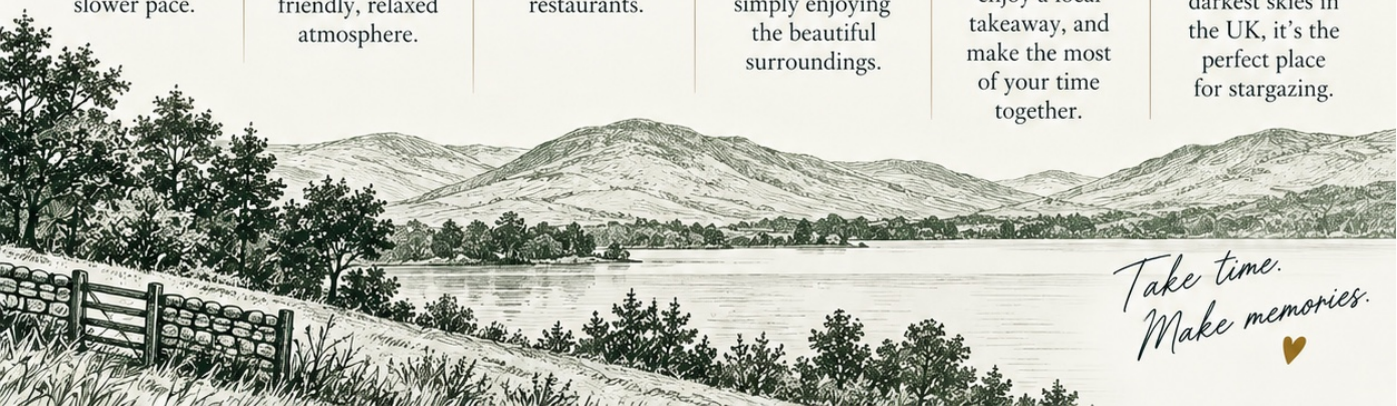
Head back to the cottage, unwind, cook a lovely meal or enjoy a local takeaway, and make the most of your time together.

22:00



NIGHT

Step outside, take a deep breath and look up. With some of the darkest skies in the UK, it's the perfect place for stargazing.



Take time.
Make memories.



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A Guide to Stargazing

IN AND AROUND BALA

Bala is a beautiful place for stargazing, with dark skies, wide open landscapes and minimal light pollution. Here's everything you need to make the most of the night sky during your stay.

WHAT YOU CAN SEE



- The Milky Way arches across the sky on clear, dark nights.
- Look for bright stars and the patterns they make.
- Many constellations are visible all year.
- With a bit of luck you might also see planets, shooting stars and even the Northern Lights on rare occasions!

BRIGHT STARS TO SPOT

★	Arcturus	Bright orange star in Bootes
★	Vega	Bright white star in Lyra
★	Deneb	Bright blue-white star in Cygnus
★	Altair	Bright white star in Aquila
★	Antares	Reddish star in Scorpius

WHEN TO LOOK



EVENING
8PM – 11PM

Winter & Spring constellations are high in the sky.



LATE EVENING
11PM – 2AM

The Milky Way rises higher in the south.



EARLY MORNING
2AM – DAWN

Summer constellations begin to appear in the east.

LOOK OUT FOR...



THE BIG DIPPER
Use the two pointer stars to find Polaris, the North Star.



THE NORTHERN CROWN
A small arc of stars between Bootes and Hercules.



SCORPIUS
Best seen in summer, low in the southern sky.



THE SWAN (CYGNUS)
Look for the Northern Cross – a beautiful sight in summer.

TIPS FOR AMAZING VIEWS



Binoculars reveal more stars, clusters and nebulae.



Bring a comfy chair or blanket and make yourself cosy.



Try night mode on your phone or a camera for photos.



Bring a warm drink and enjoy the peace and quiet.



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*"Look up, slow down,
and enjoy the wonder above."*

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THE NIGHT SKY
over Bala

NORTH

Facing North

URSA MAJOR
(The Big Dipper)

POLARIS
(North Star)

BOOTES

Arcturus

CORONA
BOREALIS

DRACO
(The Dragon)

SCORPIUS

Antares

Vega

LYRA
(The Harp)

SOUTH

Facing South

CASSIOPEIA

CEPHEUS

Deneb

CYGNUS
(The Swan)

Altair

AQUILA
(The Eagle)

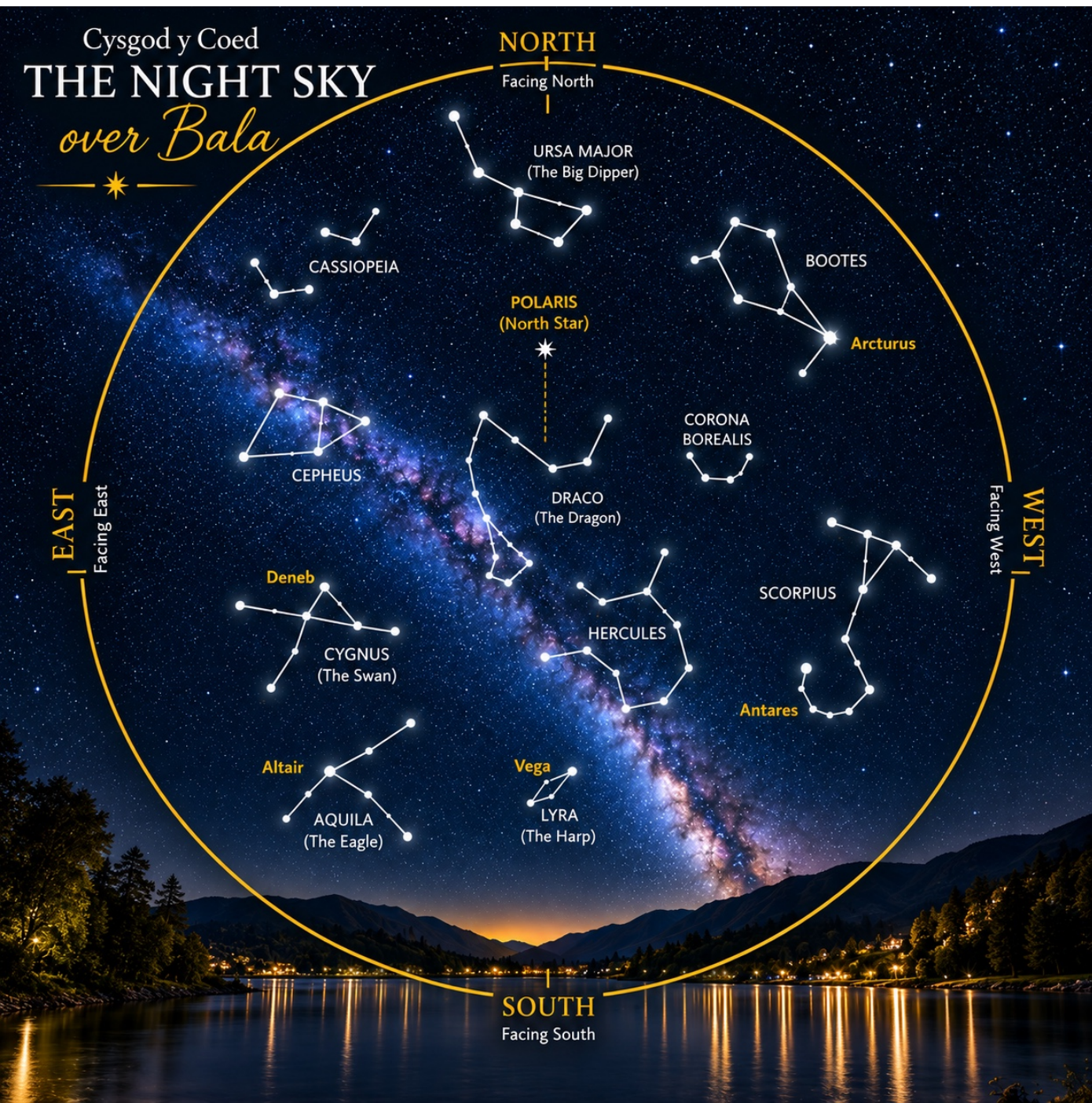
HERCULES

EAST

Facing East

WEST

Facing West



Cysgod y Coed DARK SKY GUIDE TO BALA

DISCOVER A BRIGHTER NIGHT

Bala is a special place to experience the night sky, with some of the darkest skies in the UK.

*Look up. Breathe in.
Be amazed.*



WHY BALA?



Rural location with low light pollution.



Natural landscapes and open skies.



Clean, clear air for exceptional visibility.

THE BORTLE SCALE

A simple guide to sky brightness:



- 1 Excellent dark skies
- 2 Dark skies
- 3 **Rural skies (Bala)**
- 4 Rural / suburban
- 5 Suburban
- 6 Bright suburban
- 7 City
- 8 Bright city
- 9 Inner city



THE MILKY WAY

From spring to autumn, the Milky Way is visible as a stunning arch of stars over Bala.

BEST TIME TO SEE IT



March – October



10pm – 2am



Look towards the south, away from bright lights.

*A darker night.
A brighter you.*

TIPS FOR AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE



Turn off your phone torch.



Wrap up warm.



Bring a comfy chair or blanket.



Take binoculars if you have them.



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Take time. Make memories.

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STARGAZING

Make the most of your night sky

You don't need special equipment to enjoy the stars. Just find somewhere dark, get comfortable and give your eyes a little time to adjust.

*Darker
Skies
Brighter
Moments*

A FEW SIMPLE TIPS



Check the moon

A new moon means darker skies and more stars.



Find somewhere dark

Move away from streetlights. The darker it is, the more you'll see.



Give your eyes time

Allow 20–30 minutes to adjust. Avoid bright phone screens.



Wrap up warm

Even summer evenings can be chilly.



Make it comfortable

Bring a blanket or reclining chair and a hot drink.



Use a red light

If you need a torch, use a red light to preserve your night vision.



Bring binoculars

Great for star clusters, the Moon and brighter objects.



SIMPLE STEPS
BIGGER SKIES

WHAT MIGHT YOU SEE?



THE MILKY WAY

Our home galaxy – a stunning band of stars, dust and light.



PLANETS

Look out for Jupiter, Saturn, Venus and Mars – they often appear brighter than stars.



STAR CLUSTERS

Groups of stars that sparkle together, like tiny diamonds in the sky.



SHOOTING STARS

Meteor showers occur throughout the year. See one? Make a wish.



THE MOON

From crescent to full, the Moon changes throughout the month. Binoculars reveal amazing detail.

LOOK OUT FOR...



PERSEID METEOR SHOWER

Peak: 11–13 August
Warm summer nights
and lots of shooting stars.



GEMINID METEOR SHOWER

Peak: 13–14 December
One of the highlights
of the year, with the
chance to see many
meteors in a single night.



ORION

Best seen in winter
evenings. Look for
the three bright stars
of Orion's Belt.



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Look up. Breathe in. Be amazed.

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★

STARGAZING

Right on Your Doorstep

DARK SKIES • QUIET PLACES • UNFORGETTABLE VIEWS



BALA LAKE



SCENIC ROADS



CYSGOD Y COED
GARDEN & DECKING



LLYN TEGID
NORTH SHORE



FIND YOUR
OWN SPOT



LOOK UP
BE AMAZED



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Breathe. Explore. Unwind.

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WHY BALA IS A GREAT PLACE *for Stargazing*

Bala is blessed with dark skies, clean air and stunning natural beauty – the perfect ingredients for unforgettable nights under the stars.



DARK SKIES

Far from big cities, Bala has low light pollution, giving you clear, dark skies filled with stars.



STUNNING SURROUNDINGS

Mountains, lakes and open landscapes mean wide, unobstructed views in every direction.



CLEAN, FRESH AIR

Fresh, unpolluted air helps create crisp, clear views of the night sky.



A PEACEFUL ESCAPE

Quiet nights and minimal light mean you can relax, unwind and truly connect with the stars.



SEE MORE

On a clear night you can see the Milky Way, planets, shooting stars and so much more.

Look up. Breathe in. Be amazed.



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MOON CALENDAR 2026

July to December

*Darker
Skies
Brighter
Memories* ♥

The moon's cycle affects how much of the night sky you can see.
Use this calendar to plan your stargazing nights.



JULY



New Moon	5 Jul
First Quarter	13 Jul
Full Moon	20 Jul
Last Quarter	27 Jul

★ July's full moon is known as the Buck Moon.



AUGUST



New Moon	3 Aug
First Quarter	11 Aug
Full Moon	18 Aug
Last Quarter	25 Aug

★ August's full moon is known as the Sturgeon Moon.



SEPTEMBER



New Moon	1 Sep
First Quarter	9 Sep
Full Moon	16 Sep
Last Quarter	24 Sep

★ September's full moon is known as the Harvest Moon.



OCTOBER



New Moon	31 Oct
First Quarter	8 Oct
Full Moon	14 Oct
Last Quarter	22 Oct

★ October's full moon is known as the Hunter's Moon.



NOVEMBER



New Moon	29 Nov
First Quarter	6 Nov
Full Moon	14 Nov
Last Quarter	21 Nov

★ November's full moon is known as the Beaver Moon.



DECEMBER



New Moon	29 Dec
First Quarter	5 Dec
Full Moon	13 Dec
Last Quarter	21 Dec

★ December's full moon is known as the Cold Moon.



MOON PHASE GUIDE

- New Moon – Sky is darkest
- First Quarter – Right side illuminated
- Full Moon – Entire moon visible
- Last Quarter – Left side illuminated



MOON ILLUMINATION GUIDE

The percentage shows how much of the moon will be illuminated.



BEST NIGHTS FOR STARGAZING

The best time to see stars, planets and the Milky Way is around the New Moon, when the night sky is darkest.



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Look up. Breathe in. Be amazed.

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