

noctilucent  
**clouds**  
PHOTO GALLERY  
Summer 2009

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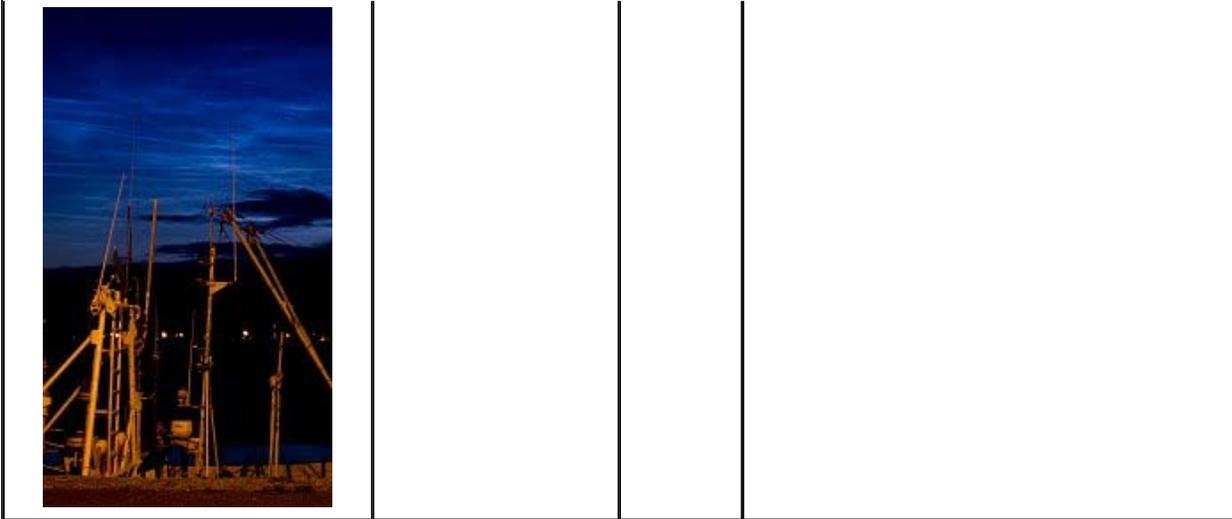
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**Observing tips:** Look west 30 to 60 minutes [after sunset](#) when the Sun has dipped 6° to 16° below the horizon. If you see luminous blue-white tendrils spreading across the sky, you've probably spotted a [noctilucent cloud](#). Although noctilucent clouds appear most often at arctic latitudes, they have been [sighted](#) in recent years as far south as Colorado, Utah and possibly Virginia. NLCs are seasonal, appearing most often in late spring and summer. In the northern hemisphere, the best time to look would be between mid-May and the end of August. **See also** [2003](#), [2004](#), [2005](#), [2006](#), [2007](#), and [2008](#)

	Photographer, Location	Images	Comments
	John Houghton, Leicester UK <b>Jul. 20, 2009</b>	<a href="#">#1</a> , <a href="#">#2</a> , <a href="#">#3</a>	Fantastic display in the early hours of the morning, possibly the best so far. The crescent moon and venus were also in the sky as a bonus! Taken with a Nikon D700 and Nikon 50mm f/1.4 lens, ISO 400, f/4.8 various exposure times.
	Martin Mc Kenna, Maghera, Co. Derry, N. Ireland <b>Jul. 20, 2009</b>	<a href="#">#1</a> , <a href="#">#2</a> , <a href="#">#3</a> , <a href="#">#4</a> , <a href="#">more</a>	Hi Tony An absolutely incredible NLC display appeared over N. Ireland last night. It was weak in the evening however before dawn it rose again and intensified and spread out rapidly with vividly moving formations in real time. When patches of trop cloud shifted I could see the slender crescent Moon with earthshine with mighty Venus all shrouded in glowing silver-blue NLCs. It was breathtaking!. Soon after the entire sky was covered with just a clear band low in the S and W. I seen struture I have never observed before in my life! Fujifilm S6500fd 6.3MP at ISO200 various settings.
	Peter Vasey, Looking North over Hexham, Northumberland, UK <b>Jul. 19, 2009</b>	<a href="#">#1</a> , <a href="#">more</a>	I photographed this most unusual noctilucent cloud shortly before midnight. It was quite short lived, and puts me in mind of a whale cruising through the sky!

	<p><a href="#">Alan C Tough</a>, Elgin, Moray, Scotland. <b>Jul. 19, 2009</b></p>	<p><a href="#">#1</a>, <a href="#">#2</a></p>	<p>When I looked out of my window at 11 p.m. (local time) I could see what looked like a weather front - of Noctilucent Clouds! Quite incredible. This NLC season has been amazing, and it continues to surprise. Photographic equipment used: Canon EOS 40D and Sigma EX DG 24-60mm lens.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Richard Fleet</a>, Pewsey Vale, Wiltshire, England <b>Jul. 20, 2009</b></p>	<p><a href="#">#1</a>, <a href="#">#2</a>, <a href="#">#3</a>, <a href="#">more</a></p>	<p>Another good display this morning with a crescent moon shining through the noctilucent cloud. Low cloud obscured part of the display but it was well worth getting up for.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Jan Koeman</a>, Bergse Maas, Waalwijk, The Netherlands <b>Jul. 19, 2009</b></p>	<p><a href="#">#1</a>, <a href="#">more</a></p>	<p>The Noctilucent storm over Europe is not over yet! Around midnight last night I took this picture of a NLC-display peering through the rainclouds. They were clearly visible but only a few degrees above the horizon.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Peter McCabe</a>, Dundalk, Co.Louth, Ireland <b>Jul. 20, 2009</b></p>	<p><a href="#">#1</a>, <a href="#">#2</a>, <a href="#">#3</a></p>	<p>The most fantastic display yet. NLC's Venus and Moon! Started at about 3am. NLC's filled the sky looking NW to E and rose more than 90deg overhead. The photos don't do them justice!!!!!!</p>



**more images:** [from Ian Sharp](#) of Ham, West Sussex, England, UK; [from Monika Landy-Gyebnar](#) of Veszprem, Hungary; [from Mike Alexander](#) of Galloway Astronomy Centre, Wigtownshire, Scotland, UK; [from Ivan Majchrovic](#) of Marianka, Slovakia; [from Vincent Phillips](#) of Hale village, near Liverpool UK; [from Ágnes Őri](#) of Jobbágyi, Hungary

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Northern Lights Photo Gallery: A solar wind stream hit Earth on May 20th causing a mild geomagnetic storm and Northern Lights around the Arctic Circle. The auroras of May 21st were so bright, they were visible in the twilight blue sky above Nunavik, Quebec.

"The sky is blue at 1 o'clock in the morning when I took these pictures," says photographer Sylvain Serre. "At our latitude at this time of year, it is blue all night long--and it's never a dark blue. So, at 1 o'clock in the morning, the sky is bright and I can see only a few stars."

In spite of this extra glare, Serre was able to see the auroras. "I saw them with my unaided eyes. The clouds made it difficult, but the clouds were moving slowly while the northern lights were moving faster." This, plus the green color of the auroras, made it possible to sort things out.