

Here's an example of an article, about the Northern Lights, that was rather extensively rewritten. It took almost a whole day, which is a little more than we should spend on most pages (and I hope I will be more effective with a little more training).

But hopefully this can serve as an inspiration anyway. As you can see, I have tried to introduce a somewhat less formal and more open style (I even tried to include a few dry jokes), and I rewrote the introduction completely. Even though I liked the original intro as well, Frederik wanted something that had a more distinct editorial tone, and a little less like traditional advertising.

My hope was that I would add a little more credibility by focusing a little bit more on the science (and a little less on the myths) in the intro, and also to make it more alive by several mentions of the locals. But enough chit-chat.

First, here's the original article (compiled of five pages), almost without rewrites. As I said, this was not good enough (you don't have to read the whole thing, but I'm sure you can see pretty soon that it is a bit... boring):

The Northern lights - nature's own theatre

Watch nature's own theatre unfold above you as the most spectacular light show takes centre stage: The northern lights with you in the front row.

Seeing the northern lights, or the aurora borealis, as they are also known, is a jaw-dropping and mystical moment.

Each appearance of the northern lights is unique. Often you see three green bands across the night sky. Or the lights come as flickering curtains or rolling smoke. The colour is a luminous green, often with a hint of pink along the edge, and occasionally with a deep violet centre. The colour palette seems to come from the 1980s.

When dreaming about seeing the northern lights, you must remember that you are at the complete mercy of nature. The northern lights love to play hide and seek. Observing the aurora borealis is often a tug of war between your patience and the aurora itself. Stay in the northern lights area at least a week, preferably two, and you will be rewarded - unless local weather suddenly decides to obstruct your view with clouds.

Where and when

Theoretically, you can see the northern lights all over Norway. However, the best places are above the Arctic Circle in [Northern Norway](#) or [the Svalbard Islands](#).

The northern lights belt hits Northern Norway in [the Lofoten Islands](#), and follows the coast all the way up to [the North Cape](#) and beyond. This means that no other place on earth offers better chances of spotting the lights, and one location in this area might be as good as another. In fact, one often observes the same northern lights in the Lofoten as in [Tromsø](#), just from a different angle. The driest weather, giving clear skies, is found inland, statistically providing the best chances, but with strong eastern winds, the coast can be clearer than inland areas.

In order to get full value from the show you should avoid the full moon and places with a lot of light as they make the experience considerably paler. Also remember to wrap up warmly.

The lights are at their most frequent in late autumn and winter/early spring. Between the autumn equinox and spring equinox (21 September - 21 March), it is dark between 6 pm and 1 am, and you have maximum chances of spotting the lights. However, the weather is also of importance, and September, October and November tend to be wet and snowless in the north.

From December the weather dries up, and there is normally plenty of snow. If you come in December or January, you experience the polar nights with atmospheric evenings and very short days. In February and March the days are longer and you see more of the snow-clad landscapes during daytime, and the evenings still offer maximum chances to spot the northern lights.

No guarantee can be given, though. Some weeks, you are treated to fantastic displays, repeated several times during the evening. Other times, the snow falls densely, or the northern lights simply stay away. Naturally, the longer you stay and the more time you set aside, the better the odds.

The science behind the Northern Lights

It is the sun that lies behind the formation of the auroras. During **large solar explosions** and flares, huge quantities of particles are thrown out of the sun and into deep space.

When the particles meet the Earth's magnetic shield, they are led towards a circle around the magnetic North Pole, where they interact with the upper layers of the atmosphere. The energy which is then released is the northern lights. All this happens approximately 100 kilometres above our heads.

Perhaps not so surprisingly, the northern lights' spectacle has given rise to as many legends as there have been people watching. Symbols linked to the northern lights are found on the Sami shamanistic drum. The phenomenon has several different names in Sami. It is, for instance, known as Guovssahas, which means "the light which can be heard".

The northern lights were traditionally associated with sound by [the Sami](#), the indigenous people of Norway. And during the Viking Age, the northern lights were said to be the armour of the Valkyrie warrior virgins, shedding a strange flickering light.

5 photo tips

1. Spare battery: The cold drains batteries very quickly, so remember to bring fully charged spares and keep them in your pocket, close to your body, until you need them.
2. Camera: A camera with interchangeable lenses will be best, but in principle any camera can be used. The bigger and more modern the imaging chip in it, the less grainy the pictures will be.
3. Remote trigger: A cable release fitting your camera will be invaluable in reducing the vibration. It can be used in addition to or instead of the trigger delay timer built into most cameras today. If you don't have a remote trigger, use the the trigger delay instead.
4. Sturdy tripod: Avoid blurring of the picture from camera movement. A good head which allows independent adjustment of each axis will be best. If your tripod is unstable, try hanging something heavy from the centre column.
5. Lens: A wide-angle lens is best, preferably with a focal length between 10 and 24 mm and a maximum aperture of f/2.8 (but f/3.5 will do at a pinch). Manual focus adjustment is a must.

OK! So here's the article after the rewrite:

H1: The Northern Lights

H2: A carnival of lights

The Northern lights convey a sense of being at the very edge of the world and getting a rare glimpse into the endless universe we are all just a tiny part of.

It's called «God's light show», «nature's own theatre», or simply by its scientific name of *aurora borealis*.

And on a very basic level the northern lights isn't that hard to explain. The lights come at night, when the sky is dark. It's like a celestial ballet of light dancing across the night sky, with a colour palette (green, pink, violet) obtained from a really cool fashion show from the 1980s.

You can see pictures or videos of it, but only those lucky enough to experience it first hand can fully comprehend the almost divine attraction that the northern lights possess.

To the locals in Northern parts of Norway, the northern lights are a part of their life, as they light up the night sky in surroundings dominated by snow, rugged mountains and harbors. In this area the aurora has been, and still is, a fertile source for art, mythology and legends.

To others, like celebrity scientist Neil deGrasse Tyson, the phenomenon of the northern lights is more of a unique example of just how beautiful science can be. "It's a curious thing about the universe", he says (lenke?), "behind the most stunning sights to behold, lies some of the most challenging problems in physics".

Bildeserie

When and where? There's no exact answer, but ...

It is often said that the Northern parts of Norway are the best places in the world to see the northern lights. Well, if we're honest that is only a partial truth - the lights can be just as visible from other destinations outside of Norway.

But our bold claim is that Northern Norway definitely is among the most comfortable and interesting places to see the lights, as hundreds of thousands of people live in this huge geographical area, offering a variety of hotels and activities to keep you busy.

The northern lights belt hits Northern Norway in the Lofoten Islands (although aurora has been spotted more often in Trøndelag the last few years), and follows the coast all the way up to the North Cape and beyond. One place in this area is often as good as another - you can observe the same northern lights in Lofoten as in Tromsø 500 kilometers further north, just from a different angle.

It's important to remember that aurora can be a bit of a diva, that will only start the show when she feels the time is right. Patience is a virtue, also when chasing the northern lights.

But here's how you maximize your chances of a sighting: The lights are at their most frequent in late autumn and winter/early spring. Between late September and late March, it is dark between 6pm and 1am, and you have the best chances of spotting the lights.

However, remember how we told you about her being a diva? Aurora borealis likes it best when the weather is cold and dry, usually from December. Some will tell you that the driest weather, giving clear skies, is found inland, but that isn't always true. With strong eastern winds the coast can be clearer than inland areas.

In order to get the best value from the show you should try and avoid the full moon - not because of werewolves, but because a bright moon make the experience considerably paler.

- Kobles med appen? Faktaboks lenger nede.

Video

Norway, home of the Northern Lights

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=2&v=5MVXCzChWnk>

Produkter

Snowmobile safaris - Hurtigruten - Northern Light lectures - Dog sledding etc.

The science and myths behind the northern lights

The science behind the northern lights are usually explained by physics specialized in magneto hydrodynamics, and quite frankly, they are *a lot* smarter than us.

But this we understand: We have the sun to thank for everything, also the auroras. During large solar explosions and flares, huge quantities of particles are thrown out of the sun and into deep space.

Here's where it gets a little complicated, but please bear with us: When the particles meet the Earth's magnetic shield, they are led towards a circle around the magnetic

North Pole, where they interact with the upper layers of the atmosphere. The energy which is then released is the northern lights. All this happens approximately 100 kilometres above our heads.

Perhaps not so surprisingly, the northern lights' spectacle has given rise to several legends. Symbols linked to the northern lights are for instance found on the Sami shamanistic drum. The phenomenon has several different names in Sami, among them Guovssahas, which means «the light which can be heard». Quite poetic, isn't it?

And during the Viking Age, the northern lights were said to be the armour of the Valkyrie warrior virgins, shedding a strange flickering light. Oh, the vikings and their warrior virgins ...

Fact boxes:

Lights, camera ... action!

You don't really need much gear to photograph the northern lights, but there are some things you simply cannot do without:

1. Spare battery: The cold drains batteries very quickly, so remember to bring fully charged spares and keep them in your pocket, close to your body, until you need them.
2. Camera: A camera with interchangeable lenses will be best, but in principle any camera can be used. The bigger and more modern the imaging chip in it, the less grainy the pictures will be.
3. Remote trigger: A cable release fitting your camera will be invaluable in reducing the vibration. It can be used in addition to or instead of the trigger delay timer built into most cameras today. If you don't have a remote trigger, use the the trigger delay instead.
4. Sturdy tripod: Avoid blurring of the picture from camera movement. A good head which allows independent adjustment of each axis will be best. If your tripod is unstable, try hanging something heavy from the centre column.

5. Lens: A wide-angle lens is best, preferably with a focal length between 10 and 24 mm and a maximum aperture of f/2.8 (but f/3.5 will do at a pinch). Manual focus adjustment is a must.

Install the app

Install the [Norway Lights app for Android and iPhone](#) to find out when and where to see the northern lights.

- iPhone: [Download Norway Lights for iOS](#)
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- Windows: [Download Norway Lights for Windows](#)