SPECTACULAR NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

HOW TO TAKE AN AURORA PHOTO

1 Choose the Right Location

To capture the Aurora, opt for a location with minimal light pollution, such as a remote area away from city lights.

Local Aurora tour operators can advise you on the best locations and provide you with rental clothing, should you require it in the wintertime.



2 Essential Gear

- **SMARTPHONE:** Although a DSL camera is best, if equipped with a good quality camera and manual settings, your phone can also deliver a good photo, especially when set in landscape mode. Since batteries drain faster in cold weather, ensure you bring a power bank, close all the other apps, and switch to flight mode.
- **TRIPOD:** A stable tripod will ensure a clear long-exposure shot.
- **REMOTE SHUTTER RELEASE:** Use a remote shutter release or a timer to minimize camera shake.
- **CAMERA AND LENS:** Opt for a wider lens to capture more of the Aurora. Remember to bring a lens wipe and spare batteries.

3 Camera Settings

- **MANUAL MODE:** Manual camera settings will allow you to control exposure. If using a smartphone without manual settings, you can use apps to adjust them.
- **ISO:** Set a low ISO (typically between 100-400) to reduce noise.
- **SHUTTER SPEED:** Opt for a long exposure (10-30 seconds) to capture the Auroras' movement and colours.
- **APERTURE:** Use a wide aperture for better light capture (low f-number).
- **FLASH:** Make sure to turn flash off.



4 Focus

Manually focusing your phone camera to infinity will keep the Aurora sharp.



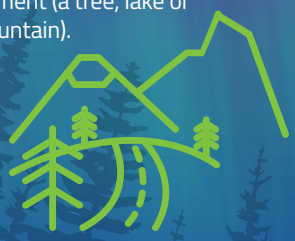
5 Visit the NWT at the Right Time of Year

Consider using apps like Northern Lights Photo Taker App (Apple IOS), Cortex Camera (Apple IOS/ Android) or Nightcap Pro (Apple IOS).



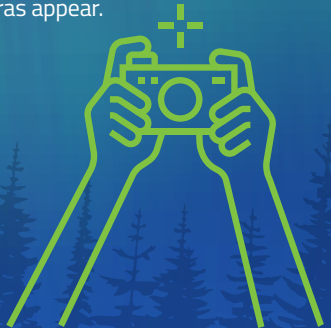
6 Composition

Add depth and context to your shot by adding an interesting foreground element (a tree, lake or mountain).



7 Patience and Timing

Since the Aurora can be unpredictable, patience is key. Check your settings in advance and be ready to shoot when the Auroras appear.



8 Experiment

Take multiple shots with different settings to see what works best in your specific conditions.



9 Stay Warm and Safe

Since photographing the Aurora often involves long waits in cold conditions, dress warmly to ensure your safety at all times.

LEARN MORE about the magic of the Northern Lights
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