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Discover

# NORTHERN LIGHTS
## RAINBOWS & SUNSETS

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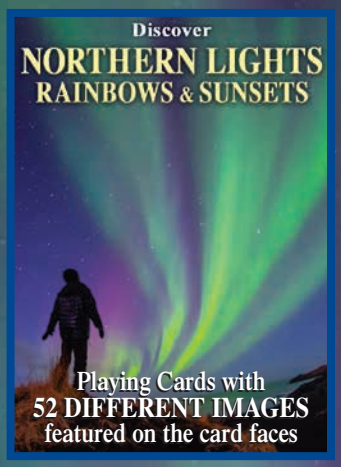
## Photo Playing Cards

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Northern Lights can come in many different shapes and sizes:

**Arcs:** The most common and brightest are the curtain-like auroral arcs. Each curtain consists of many parallel rays, each lined up with the local direction of the magnetic field, consistent with auroras being shaped by Earth's magnetic field. During intense solar activity they become more active and distorted.

**Bands:** Similar to arcs, but possess more curves. Like arcs, their level of distortion changes with the sun's activity. Arcs can change into bands in minutes.

**Corona:** Take the shape of a converging crown overhead. They can contain a great variety of colour, with purples, whites and blues. They occur during periods of intense solar activity.

**Diffuse:** The diffuse aurora, though, is a relatively featureless glow sometimes close to the limit of visibility. It can be distinguished from moonlit clouds because stars can be seen undiminished through the glow.

**Rays:** Appear as smaller filaments or streaks. They are formed when thin arcs curl up on themselves.

We've all seen rainbows during the day, but what about rainbows at night? A Lunar Rainbow also known as a Moonbow, is a rainbow produced by moonlight rather than sunlight. Moonbows are much fainter than solar rainbows, due to the smaller amount of light reflected from the surface of the moon. Because the light is usually somewhat faint it is difficult for the human eye to discern colors in a moonbow. As a result, a moonbow often appears to be white; however, the colors in a moonbow do appear in long exposure photographs. Other than the difference in the light source, its formation is the same as for a solar rainbow. It is caused by the refraction of light in many water droplets, such as a rain shower or a waterfall, and is always positioned in the opposite part of the sky from the moon relative to the observer.

Title Text Included

Rainbows form when rain falls in one part of the sky while the sun shines in another. Sunlight shining on those raindrops in the sky creates a rainbow. A rainbow is caused by the prism effect of a water droplet. When light travels from one medium into another in which its speed is different, the light ray is bent; the amount of bending is inversely proportional to the wavelength. When a ray of light encounters a water droplet, light entering the droplet is refracted, and the colors are separated. The light then strikes the rear of the droplet and is reflected, then is refracted again when it exits the drop. An observer in the right place sees that fabulous arc of color.

Location, location, location! The Aurora Borealis is most commonly seen in the polar regions, within a radius of 1,550 miles (2,500 km) around the magnetic pole. The further north you travel, the more likely you are to catch a glimpse of the aurora. The further away from the North Pole you are, generally speaking the lower on the horizon the aurora will be. Find relatively high ground with an un-obscured view. The other key factors in viewing Aurora depends on the degree of disturbance of the earth's magnetic field at the time. Other considerations are the weather at your location, light pollution from city lights, full moon and physical obstructions like mountains.

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