

Dark Skies in the Alpine Region

Innsbruck, 19.-20. October 2023

- Invitation for an event series in the field of “Reduction of Light Pollution & Value of Starry Skies”.
- With Ruskin Hartley, Executive Director of DarkSky International and further leading experts.
- An experience-based, free offer at the nexus of science and practice with lectures, excursions and film screenings.

The 22nd Innsbruck Nature Film Festival (INFF) will take place from October 19th to October 22nd, 2023. It has become one of the leading nature and environmental film festivals in Europe and is held in English.

On this occasion, the INFF, together with the Tyrol Competence Centre for Light Pollution and Night Skies (Helle Not) of the Tyrolean Environmental Ombudsoffice, is organising an exclusive and diverse focus with lectures, excursions and two film screenings.

We are very pleased to welcome Ruskin Hartley, Executive Director of DarkSky International, to Innsbruck. He will join the event by travelling from Tucson/Arizona (USA). DarkSky International is an international organisation committed to protecting the night sky worldwide.

The topic is only gradually increasing in public awareness in the wake of climate and nature concerns. Research collaborations clearly show that the careful use of artificial light outdoors is much more than just an energy-saving measure. Because natural dark nights and twilight conditions are positive for the body, mind and soul of people and existential for the life rhythms of numerous animals.

As part of our diverse and entertaining event series, we invite interested parties to take part. We

- exchange ideas on the topic across sectors as experts, filmmakers, organisations, authorities, planners, young managers, students and interested laypeople (get-together & poster session),
- investigate the effects of excessive artificial light on biodiversity and ecosystems (film screenings with panel discussion),

- hear a keynote speech by Ruskin Hartley,
- learn how lighting planners, project developers and users apply the Austrian light immission control standard (ÖNORM O 1052) concretely and practically to minimize impacts on people and nature (lecture),
- immerse ourselves in the fascination of natural nights by guided tours.

You can also take part in the events individually. With the exception of the film screenings, they are free of charge and are held in German or English. Film screenings are free of charge for students.

Registration is necessary:

- per email to Stefanie Pontasch at s.pontasch@tirol.gv.at;
- please use the keyword “Dark Skies” in the subject line and specify the module or modules you want to attend (e.g. “Module A” or “Module A and D”);
- Registration is open until October 12, 2023;
- „first come first serve” procedure;
- If you are unable to attend, please UNREGISTRATE by October 18th;
- NO advance reservations are necessary for the two film screenings; Ticket reservations directly at the Metropol Kino (0512 283310; info@metropol-kino.at) are recommended.

Program:

Thursday, 19. October 2023

Venue: Forum-LK, Wilhelm-Greil-Straße 9, 3rd floor, 6020 Innsbruck

09:00 – 10:15 a.m. **MODULE A** [Lecture: Inhalt und Anwendung der Lichtimmissionsschutznorm ÖNORM O 1052](#)

Horst Pribitzer, City of Vienna. Lecture for lighting planners, project developers and users (German).

10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Coffee break

10:45 – 12:30 p.m. **MODULE B** [Get-together & Postersession with DarkSky International, further experts and enthusiasts](#)

Special Guest – Impulses from Ruskin Hartley, Executive Director of DarkSky International. Networking meetings with presentation opportunities for organisations and initiatives from the public or non-profit sector. Open to all interested (English).

12:30 – 14:00 p.m. **MODULE C** Joint lunch buffet for participants in the get-together & poster session.

Venue: Metropol Kino, Innstraße 5, 6020 Innsbruck

14:30 – 16:45 p.m. **MODULE D** [INFF Dark Sky Session](#)

[Keynote: Why Night Sky Matters](#), Ruskin Hartley, Executive Director of DarkSky International (English)

[Film screening: The dark side of bright nights](#), a film by Tim Visser, Sander van Iersel, NL 2022; followed by a panel discussion (English); no advance registration necessary; Ticket reservations directly at the Metropol Kino (0512 283310; info@metropol-kino.at) are recommended.

21:00 – 22:15 p.m. [Film screening: Sleepless Birds](#), a film von Dana Melaver and Tom Claudon, FR 2022; Austria-Premiere (English); no advance registration necessary; Ticket reservations directly at the Metropol Kino (0512 283310; info@metropol-kino.at) are recommended.

Friday, 20. October 2023

16:00 – 17:30 p.m. **MODULE E** [Excursion: Historical observatory of the University of Innsbruck](#)

Guided Tour with Dr. Emmerich Kneringer. Meeting point: Innsbruck Botanical Garden of the University of Innsbruck, Sternwartestrasse 13, 6020 Innsbruck (German).

18:30 – 21:30 p.m. **MODULE F** [Night full of life](#)

Guided Tour with Mag. Eberhard Steiner. Meeting point: Innsbruck Botanical Garden of the University of Innsbruck, Botanikerstrasse 13, 6020 Innsbruck (German).

[Additional Information:](#)

[Why Night Sky Matters](#)

Ruskin Hartley, DarkSky International

DarkSky International, headquartered in Tucson, AZ, USA, is a recognized global authority on light pollution, empowering a global movement to protect the night sky. DarkSky restores the nighttime environment and protects communities from the harmful effects of light pollution through outreach, advocacy, and conservation. Since 1988, our global community of dark sky advocates have protected more than 200 international DarkSky Places, enacted dozens of responsible lighting policies, and raised awareness of light pollution on every continent. Learn more at [DarkSky.org](https://www.darksky.org).

[Inhalt und Anwendung der Lichtimmissionsschutznorm \(ÖNORM O 1052\)](#)

Horst Pribitzer, City of Vienna

With the new edition of the Austrian light emission protection standard (ÖNORM O 1052) in 2022, key points for a contemporary use of artificial light in outdoor areas were defined. Basic parameters, maximum limit values, impacts on human and the environment as well as requirements for specific lighting systems are listed therein. The lecture by Horst Pribitzer – Deputy Head of the Lighting Technology Laboratory of the City of Vienna – is aimed at people who develop, plan, implement and evaluate outdoor lighting systems.

[The dark side of bright nights](#)

Tim Visser, Sander van Iersel, NL 2022

When light pollution causes the night to disappear, a fundamental clock for life on earth is thrown out of balance. Animals and plants are threatened by artificial light. Many organisms have found their evolutionary niche in the dark of night and must now adapt to bright nights. Some succeed, but for many the brightness

becomes a death trap - and causes species to die. Dedicated researchers now shed a new light on the effects of this nocturnal light on nature. Will science find solutions to the problem?

Sleepless Birds

Dana Melaver, Tom Claudon, FR 2022

“Sleepless Birds” is an experimental documentary which tracks the rise of artificially-lit, industrial greenhouses in the French region of Bretagne. The film presents the environmental impact of grow lights on rhythm and perception of time, through wide-ranging interviews, artistic illustration, camera-based research, and footage from the Bretagne ecosystem. In examining the case of agricultural light pollution, the film also raises questions about the unintended consequences of human attempts to overpower nature and control the elements.

Historical observatory of the University of Innsbruck

Dr. Emmerich Kneringer, University of Innsbruck

Until the 1970s, the observatory, built in 1904, was used for research by the University of Innsbruck, after that still for the education of students. During this guided tour the observatory can be visited with Prof. Dr. Emmerich Kneringer - Experimental Particle Physics at the Institute for Astro- and Particle Physics of the University of Innsbruck.

Night full of life

Mag. Eberhard Steiner, Biologist & Nature Educator

When it gets dark, the activity period of crepuscular and nocturnal animals and plants begins. But does it actually get really dark in Innsbruck? This excursion is a border walk between the city of Innsbruck, which is illuminated at night, and the habitats on the outskirts of the city, where darkness still prevails at night. A nighttime view of the city is also part of the event, as are unexpected encounters with Innsbruck's nightlife, away from the brightly lit paths of people.

Find out more about the Innsbruck Nature Film Festival (19.10. – 22.10.2023) on www.inff.eu.

Find out more about the Tyrol Competence Centre on Light Pollution and Dark Skies on www.hellenot.org.



Contact

Tyrol Competence Centre for Light Pollution and Dark Skies

Tyrolean Environmental Ombudsoffice

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**innsbruck nature
film festival**

