

TYPES OF NORTHERN LIGHTS

The Northern Lights are an amazing sight caused by solar winds and coronal mass ejections. They can come in many different shapes and sizes.



ARCS

- 1 Arcs possess long graceful curves from horizon to horizon.
- 2 They are the most common shape, seen in times of low solar activity.
- 3 During more intense solar activity they become more active and distorted.



BANDS

- 1 Bands are similar to arcs, but possess more curves.
- 2 Like arcs, the level of distortion changes with the sun's activity.
- 3 Arcs can change into bands in mere minutes.



CORONA

- 1 Coronas take the shape of a converging crown overhead.
- 2 Can contain a great variety of colour, with purples, whites and blues.
- 3 They are most common during periods of intense solar activity.



DIFFUSE

- 1 Diffuse auroras are only seen on rare occasions.
- 2 They do not take on a specific shape with any specific features.
- 3 They cannot be seen easily, typically needing specialised equipment.



RAYS

- 1 Rays appear as smaller filaments or streaks.
- 2 They are formed when thin arcs curl up on themselves.
- 3 They are most common in periods of high solar activity.

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