

About the Celestial Objects

Listed on this page are several of the brighter, more interesting celestial objects visible in the evening sky this month (refer to the monthly sky map). The objects are grouped into three categories. Those that can be easily seen with the naked eye (that is, without optical aid), those easily seen with binoculars, and those requiring a telescope to be appreciated. **Note, all of the objects (except single stars) will appear more impressive when viewed through a telescope or very large binoculars.** They are grouped in this way to highlight objects that can be seen using the optical equipment that may be available to the star gazer.

Tips for Observing the Night Sky

When observing the night sky, and in particular deep-sky objects such as star clusters, nebulae, and galaxies, it's always best to observe from a dark location. Avoid direct light from street lights and other sources. If possible observe from a dark location away from the light pollution that surrounds many of today's large cities.

You will see more stars after your eyes adapt to the darkness—usually about 10 to 20 minutes after you go outside. Also, if you need to use a torch to view the sky map, cover the light bulb with red cellophane. This will preserve your dark vision.

Finally, even though the Moon is one of the most stunning objects to view through a telescope, its light is so bright that it brightens the sky and makes many of the fainter objects very difficult to see. So try to observe the evening sky on moonless nights around either New Moon or Last Quarter.

Astronomical Glossary

Conjunction – An alignment of two celestial bodies such that they present the least angular separation as viewed from Earth.

Constellation – A defined area of the sky containing a star pattern.

Diffuse Nebula – A cloud of gas illuminated by nearby stars.

Double Star – Two stars that appear close to each other in the sky; either linked by gravity so that they orbit each other (binary star) or lying at different distances from Earth (optical double). Apparent separation of stars is given in seconds of arc (").

Ecliptic – The path of the Sun's center on the celestial sphere as seen from Earth.

Elongation – The angular separation of two celestial bodies. For Mercury and Venus the greatest elongation occurs when they are at their most angular distance from the Sun as viewed from Earth.

Galaxy – A mass of up to several billion stars held together by gravity.

Globular Star Cluster – A ball-shaped group of several thousand old stars.

Light Year (ly) – The distance a beam of light travels at 300,000 km/sec in one year.

Magnitude – The brightness of a celestial object as it appears in the sky.

Open Star Cluster – A group of tens or hundreds of relatively young stars.

Opposition – When a celestial body is opposite the Sun in the sky.

Planetary Nebula – The remnants of a shell of gas blown off by a star.

Universal Time (UT) – A time system used by astronomers. Also known as Greenwich Mean Time. Australian Eastern Standard Time (Sydney, Australia) is UT plus 10 hours.

Variable Star - A star that changes brightness over a period of time.

SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE JUNE 2025

LESTIAL

Arcturus

Easily Seen with the Naked Eye

,	200	- orange, grane it stare mains bear materies is size sorr ty.
Canopus	Car	• Second brightest star in the sky. 14,000 times more luminous than the Sun. Dist=309 ly.
β Centauri	Cen	• With Alpha Centauri, forms the so-called "Pointers-to-the-Cross". Dist=525 ly.
α Centauri	Cen	• Nearest bright star to Sun at 4.4 ly. Brilliant double star in a telescope. 80 year period.
Coalsack	Cru	 Most famous naked-eye dark nebula. Requires dark sky. Dist=600 ly.
Regulus	Leo	 Brightest star in Leo. A blue-white star with at least 1 companion. Dist=77 ly.
Antares	Sco	 Red, supergiant star. Name means "rival of Mars". Dist=135.9 ly.
Spica	Vir	• Latin name means "ear of wheat" and shown held in Virgo's left hand. Dist=250 ly.

Boo • Orange, giant K star. Name means "bear watcher". Dist=36.7 ly.

Easily Seen with Binoculars

6397	Ara	\oplus	Thought to be the nearest globular. Dist=7,000 ly.
M3	CVn	\oplus	Easy to find in binoculars. Might be glimpsed with the naked eye.
2516	Car	()	Spectacular open star cluster of 100 stars spaning 1/2 deg. Dist=1,300 ly.
2808	Car	\oplus	Located 4 deg W of Nu Carinae. Visible to the naked eye on clear nights.
R Carinae	Car	•	Long period variable. Magnitude varies between 3.9 & 10.5 over 309 days.
3114	Car	()	Stunning open cluster. 30+ stars visible through 7x binoculars. Dist=2,900 ly.
3293	Car	()	Rich, tightly packed. Surrounded by large, faint nebulosity. Dist=8,500 ly.
IC 2602	Car	()	The "Five of Diamonds". Bright cluster twice diameter of full Moon. Dist=491 ly.
3372	Car		Eta Carinae Nebula. Enormous glowing cloud in rich star field. Dist=8,000 ly.
3532	Car	()	Herschel - "most brilliant cluster". 60+ stars in 7x binoculars. Dist=1,300 ly.
ω Centauri	Cen	\oplus	Largest and brightest globular star cluster in sky. 1 million stars. Dist=17,000 ly.
Mel 111	Com	0	Coma Berenices. 80 mag 5-6 stars in 5 deg. Dist=283 ly. Age=400 million years.
4755	Cru	0	Jewel Box. Outstanding star cluster. Many contrasting colours. Dist=7,600 ly.
LMC	Dor	0	Large Magellanic Cloud. A neighbouring galaxy of the Milky Way. Dist=180,000 ly.
R Hydrae	Hya	•	Long period variable. Mag varies between 3.0 & 11.0 over 390 days. Brilliant red.
κ Pavonis	Pav	•	Cepheid-type. Magnitude varies between 3.9 & 4.8 over 9.088 days.
6752	Pav	\oplus	One of the better globular star clusters in the sky. Dist=14,000 ly.
M8	Sgr		Lagoon Nebula. Bright nebula bisected by a dark lane. Dist=5,200 ly.
M22	Sgr	\oplus	A spectacular globular star cluster. Telescope will show stars. Dist=10,000 ly.
M4	Sco	\oplus	A close globular. May just be visible without optical aid. Dist=7,000 ly.
6231	Sco	0	Easy to see in binoculars. Dist=5,900 ly.
M6	Sco	0	Butterfly Cluster. 30+ stars in 7x binoculars. Dist=1,960 ly.
M7	Sco	0	Superb open cluster. Visible to the naked eye. Age=260 million years. Dist=780 ly.
M5	Ser	\oplus	Fine globular star cluster. Telescope will reveal individual stars. Dist=25,000 ly.
6025	TrA	()	A small open star cluster in Milky Way. Dist=2,700 ly.
SMC	Tuc	0	Small Magellanic Cloud. Companion galaxy to Milky Way. Requires dark sky. Dist=210,000 ly.
2547	Vel	0	Fine open cluster visible through binoculars. Dist=1,300 ly.
IC 2391	Vel	0	Omicron Velorum Cluster. Superb object for binoculars. Dist=450 ly.

Telescopic Objects

M21 Sgr A fine and impressive cluster. Dist=4,200 ly. M17 Sgr Domega Nebula. Contains the star cluster NGC 6618. Dist=4,900 ly. M16 Ser Eagle Nebula. Requires a telescope of large aperture. Dist=8,150 ly. M16 Ser Eagle Nebula. Requires a telescope of large aperture. Dist=8,150 ly. M17 Vir One of the brightest planetaries. Magnitude 10 central star. Dist=2,600 ly. M187 Vir Supergiant galaxy with supermassive black hole at its core. Dist=53.5 million ly. M104 Vir Sombrero Galaxy. Almost edge-on spiral galaxy. Protruding central core. Y Virginis Vir Superb pair of mag 3.5 yellow-white stars. Orbit=169 years. At their closest in 2005.	0	M17 6124 M16 3132 M87 M104	Sgr Sco Ser Vel Vir Vir	\$00\$ \$00\$ <th>Omega Nebula. Contains the star cluster NGC 6618. Dist=4,900 ly. Contains 5 bright tightly packed stars near centre. 7 star chain. Dist=1,600 ly. Eagle Nebula. Requires a telescope of large aperture. Dist=8,150 ly. One of the brightest planetaries. Magnitude 10 central star. Dist=2,600 ly. Supergiant galaxy with supermassive black hole at its core. Dist=53.5 million ly. Sombrero Galaxy. Almost edge-on spiral galaxy. Protruding central core.</th>	Omega Nebula. Contains the star cluster NGC 6618. Dist=4,900 ly. Contains 5 bright tightly packed stars near centre. 7 star chain. Dist=1,600 ly. Eagle Nebula. Requires a telescope of large aperture. Dist=8,150 ly. One of the brightest planetaries. Magnitude 10 central star. Dist=2,600 ly. Supergiant galaxy with supermassive black hole at its core. Dist=53.5 million ly. Sombrero Galaxy. Almost edge-on spiral galaxy. Protruding central core.
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