

The Evening Sky Map

FREE* EACH MONTH FOR YOU TO EXPLORE, LEARN & ENJOY THE NIGHT SKY

Sky Calendar – May 2026

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- 1 **Full Moon** at 17:24 UT.
- 4 **Moon near Antares** at 1h UT (morning sky). Occultation visible from Antarctica, Argentina, Chile and Bolivia.
- 4 **Moon at apogee** (farthest from Earth) at 22h UT (distance 405,839km; angular size 29.4”).
- 6 **Eta Aquariid meteor shower peaks.** Most active for 7 days around this date. Associated with Comet Halley. Very fast, bright meteors, up to 50 per hour. Best seen from the tropics and southern hemisphere a few hours before dawn. In 2026 a waning gibbous Moon will adversely affect the visibility of this shower.
- 9 **Last Quarter Moon** at 21:13 UT.
- 13 **Moon near Saturn** at 18h UT (morning sky). Mag. 0.9.
- 14 **Mercury at superior conjunction** with the Sun at 14h UT (not visible). The innermost planet passes into the evening sky.
- 14 **Moon near Mars** at 22h UT (27° from Sun, morning sky). Mag. 1.2.
- 16 **New Moon** at 20:02 UT. Start of lunation 1279.
- 17 **Moon at perigee** (closest to Earth) at 13:45 UT (distance 358,075km; angular size 33.4”).
- 19 **Moon near Venus** at 3h UT (evening sky). Mag. -4.0.
- 19 **Moon, Venus and M35** within 3.7° circle at 5h UT (33° from Sun, evening sky). Mag. -4.0.
- 20 **Moon near Jupiter** at 15h UT (evening sky). Mag. -1.9.
- 21 **Venus 0.76° N of M35 cluster** at 1h UT (evening sky).
- 21 **Moon near Beehive Cluster (M44)** at 17h UT (evening sky).
- 21 **Venus at northernmost declination (25.1°)** at 18h UT.
- 23 **Moon near Regulus** at 5h UT (evening sky). Occultation visible from parts of Oceania.
- 23 **First Quarter Moon** at 11:11 UT.
- 27 **Moon near Spica** at 14h UT (evening sky).
- 31 **Moon near Antares** at 7h UT (midnight sky). Occultation visible from Chile, Argentina, eastern Australia and New Zealand.
- 31 **Full Moon** at 8:46 UT. A “Blue Moon” – the second Full Moon in a month.

More sky events and links at <http://Skymaps.com/skycalendar/>

All times in Universal Time (UT). (USA Eastern Daylight Time = UT - 4 hours.)



Support The Evening Sky Map

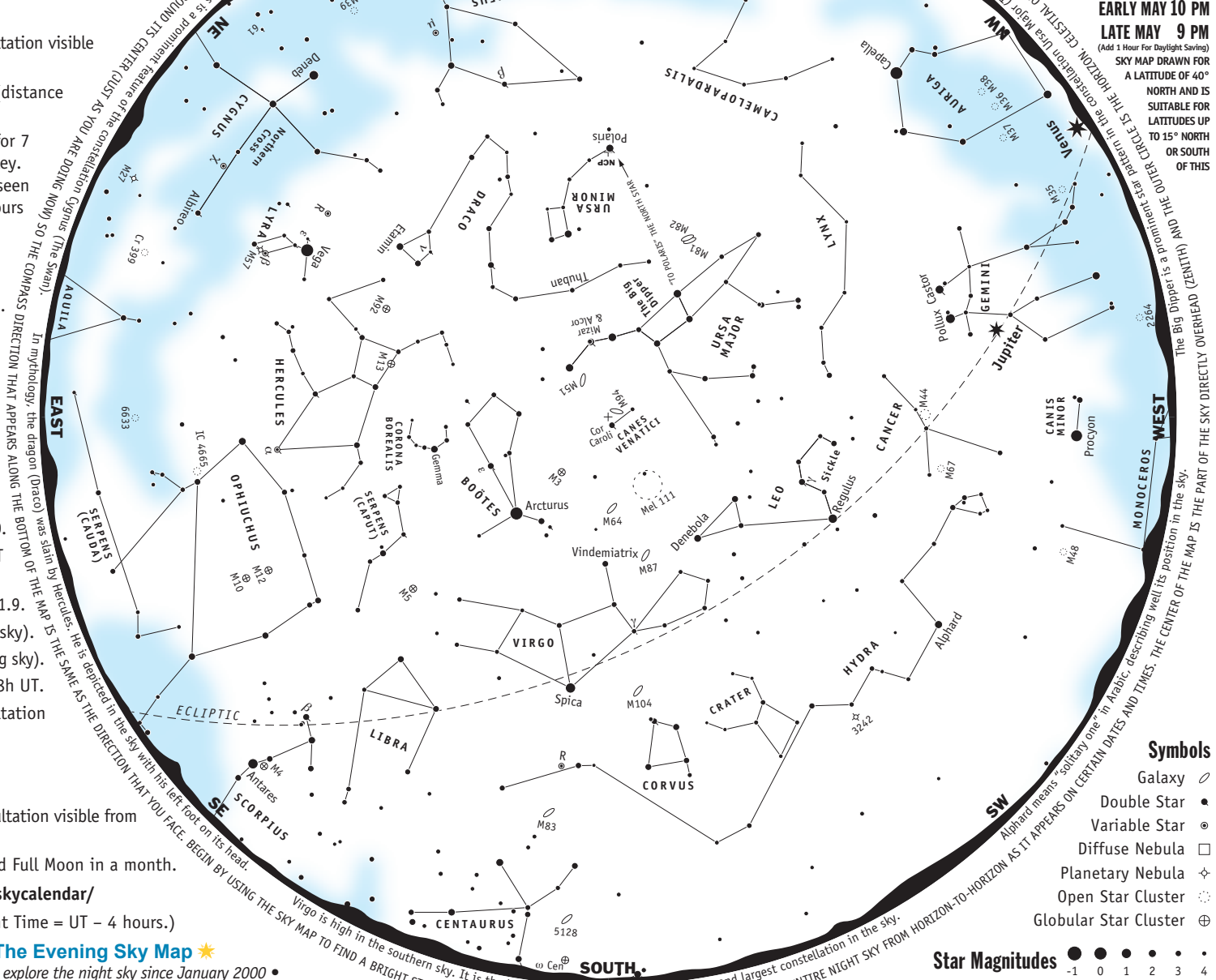
Helping curious minds to explore the night sky since January 2000 • Recommended Products for Sky Watchers: skymaps.com/store/ All sales support the production of this free resource. Thank you.

WWW.SKYPAPS.COM

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE
MAY 2026

SKY MAP SHOWS HOW THE NIGHT SKY LOOKS

EARLY MAY 10 PM
LATE MAY 9 PM
(Add 1 Hour For Daylight Saving)
SKY MAP DRAWN FOR A LATITUDE OF 40° NORTH AND IS SUITABLE FOR LATITUDES UP TO 15° NORTH OR SOUTH OF THIS



- Symbols**
- Galaxy ☾
 - Double Star ●●
 - Variable Star ⊙
 - Diffuse Nebula □
 - Planetary Nebula ◇
 - Open Star Cluster ○
 - Global Star Cluster ⊕

Star Magnitudes ●●●●●
-1 0 1 2 3 4

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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. USA Eastern Standard Time (for example, New York) is 5 hours behind UT.

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

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE
MAY 2026

CELESTIAL OBJECTS

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Easily Seen with the Naked Eye

Capella	Aur	•	The 6th brightest star. Appears yellowish in color. Spectroscopic binary. Dist=42 ly.
Arcturus	Boo	•	Orange, giant K star. Name means "bear watcher". Dist=36.7 ly.
Procyon	CMi	•	Greek name meaning "before the dog" - rises before Sirius (northern latitudes). Dist=11.4 ly.
δ Cephei	Cep	•	Cepheid prototype. Mag varies between 3.5 & 4.4 over 5.366 days. Mag 6 companion.
Deneb	Cyg	•	Brightest star in Cygnus. One of the greatest known supergiants. Dist=1,400±200 ly.
Castor	Gem	•	Multiple star system with 6 components. 3 stars visible in telescope. Dist=52 ly.
Pollux	Gem	•	With Castor, the twin sons of Leda in classical mythology. Dist=34 ly.
α Herculis	Her	•	Semi-regular variable. Magnitude varies between 3.1 & 3.9 over 90 days. Mag 5.4 companion.
Regulus	Leo	•	Brightest star in Leo. A blue-white star with at least 1 companion. Dist=77 ly.
Vega	Lyr	•	The 5th brightest star in the sky. A blue-white star. Dist=25.0 ly.
Antares	Sco	•	Red, supergiant star. Name means "rival of Mars". Dist=135.9 ly.
Polaris	UMi	•	The North Pole Star. A telescope reveals an unrelated mag 8 companion star. Dist=433 ly.
Spica	Vir	•	Latin name means "ear of wheat" and shown held in Virgo's left hand. Dist=250 ly.

Easily Seen with Binoculars

M44	Cnc	•	Praesepe or Beehive Cluster. Visible to the naked eye. Dist=590±20 ly.
M3	CVn	•	Easy to find in binoculars. Might be glimpsed with the naked eye.
μ Cephei	Cep	•	Herschel's Garnet Star. One of the reddest stars. Mag 3.4 to 5.1 over 730 days.
Mel 111	Com	•	Coma Berenices. 80 mag 5-6 stars in 5 deg. Dist=283 ly. Age=400 million years.
χ Cygni	Cyg	•	Long period pulsating red giant. Magnitude varies between 3.3 & 14.2 over 407 days.
M39	Cyg	•	May be visible to the naked eye under good conditions. Dist=900 ly.
ν Draconis	Dra	•	Wide pair of white stars. One of the finest binocular pairs in the sky. Dist=100 ly.
M13	Her	•	Best globular in northern skies. Discovered by Halley in 1714. Dist=23,000 ly.
M92	Her	•	Fainter and smaller than M13. Use a telescope to resolve its stars.
R Hydrae	Hya	•	Long period variable. Mag varies between 3.0 & 11.0 over 390 days. Brilliant red.
ε Lyrae	Lyr	•	Famous Double Double. Binoculars show a double star. High power reveals each a double.
R Lyrae	Lyr	•	Semi-regular variable. Magnitude varies between 3.9 & 5.0 over 46.0 days.
M12	Oph	•	Close to the brighter M10. Dist=18,000 ly.
M10	Oph	•	3 degrees from the fainter M12. Both may be glimpsed in binoculars. Dist=14,000 ly.
IC 4665	Oph	•	Large, scattered open cluster. Visible with binoculars.
6633	Oph	•	Scattered open cluster. Visible with binoculars.
M4	Sco	•	A close globular. May just be visible without optical aid. Dist=7,000 ly.
M5	Ser	•	Fine globular star cluster. Telescope will reveal individual stars. Dist=25,000 ly.
Mizar & Alcor	UMa	•	Good eyesight or binoculars reveals 2 stars. Not a binary. Mizar has a mag 4 companion.
Cr 399	Vul	•	Coathanger asterism or "Broccchi's Cluster". Not a true star cluster. Dist=218 to 1,140 ly.

Telescopic Objects

ε Boötis	Boo	•	Red giant star (mag 2.5) with a blue-green mag 4.9 companion. Sep=2.8". Difficult to split.
M67	Cnc	•	Contains 500+ stars mag 10 & fainter. One of the oldest clusters. Dist=2,350 ly.
M94	CVn	•	Compact nearly face-on spiral galaxy. Dist=15 million ly.
η Cassiopeiae	Cas	•	Yellow star mag 3.4 & orange star mag 7.5. Dist=19 ly. Orbit=480 years. Sep=12".
5128	Cen	•	Bisected by a wide obscuring lane. Strong radio source. Dist=14 million ly.
M51	CVn	•	Whirlpool Galaxy. First recognised to have spiral structure. Dist=25 million ly.
M64	Com	•	Black-Eye Galaxy. Discovered by J.E. Bode in 1775 - "a small, nebulous star".
Albireo	Cyg	•	Beautiful double star. Contrasting colours of orange and blue-green. Sep=34.4".
61 Cygni	Cyg	•	Attractive double star. Mags 5.2 & 6.1 orange dwarfs. Dist=11.4 ly. Sep=28.4".
3242	Hya	•	Ghost of Jupiter. Bright blue disk. Mag 11 central star. Dist=2,600 ly.
M83	Hya	•	Classic face-on spiral. Discovered in 1752 by Lacaille. In attractive star field.
γ Leonis	Leo	•	Superb pair of golden-yellow giant stars. Mags 2.2 & 3.5. Orbit=600 years. Sep=4.4".
β Lyrae	Lyr	•	Eclipsing binary. Mag varies between 3.3 & 4.3 over 12.940 days. Fainter mag 7.2 blue star.
M57	Lyr	•	Ring Nebula. Magnificent object. Smoke-ring shape. Dist=4,100 ly.
M81	UMa	•	Beautiful spiral galaxy visible with binoculars. Easy to see in a telescope.
M82	UMa	•	Close to M81 but much fainter and smaller.
M87	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.
γ Virginis	Vir	•	Superb pair of mag 3.5 yellow-white stars. Orbit=169 years. At their closest in 2005.
M27	Vul	•	Dumbbell Nebula. Large, twin-lobed shape. Most spectacular planetary. Dist=975 ly.

Sobre los Objetos Celestiales

En esta página se enumeran varios de los más brillantes e interesantes objetos celestes visibles en el cielo nocturno de este mes (consulte el mapa del cielo mensual). Los objetos están agrupados en tres categorías. Aquellos que pueden ser fácilmente vistos a simple vista (que es, sin ayuda óptica), los que se ven fácilmente con prismáticos, y los que requieren un telescopio para ser apreciada. **Nota, todos los objetos (excepto las estrellas individuales) parecen más espectaculares cuando se las ve a través de un telescopio o de unos grandes prismáticos.** Se agrupan de esta manera para resaltar los objetos que se pueden ver usando el equipo óptico que puede estar disponible para la observación de las estrellas.

Consejos para observar el cielo nocturno

Al observar el cielo nocturno, y en particular los objetos del cielo profundo como los cúmulos de estrellas, nebulosas, y galaxias, siempre es mejor observar desde un lugar oscuro. Evite la observación directa la luz de las farolas y otras fuentes. Si es posible observar desde un lugar oscuro lejos de la contaminación lumínica que rodea a muchas de las grandes ciudades hoy en día.

Verás más estrellas después de que tus ojos se adapten a la oscuridad, normalmente entre 10 y 20 minutos después de que salgas. Además, si necesitas usar una linterna para ver el cielo mapa, cubra la bombilla con celofán rojo. Esto preservará su visión en la oscuridad.

Finalmente, aunque la Luna es uno de los objetos más impresionantes de ver a través de un telescopio, su luz es tan brillante que ilumina el cielo y hace que muchos de los objetos más débiles son muy difíciles de ver. Así que trata de observar el cielo nocturno en noches sin luna alrededor de la Luna Nueva o del Cuarto Menguante.

Glosario astronómico

Conjunción - Una alineación de dos cuerpos celestes de tal manera que presentan la menor la separación angular vista desde la Tierra.

Constelación - Un área definida del cielo que contiene un patrón de estrellas.

Nebulosa difusa - Una nube de gas iluminada por las estrellas cercanas.

Estrella doble - Dos estrellas que aparecen cerca una de la otra en el cielo; ambas unidas por gravedad para que orbiten entre sí (estrella binaria) o que se encuentren a diferentes distancias de la Tierra (doble óptico). La aparente separación de las estrellas se da en segundos de arco ("").

Eclíptica - La trayectoria del centro del Sol en la esfera celeste vista desde la Tierra.

Elongación - La separación angular de dos cuerpos celestes. Para Mercurio y Venus la mayor elongación se produce cuando están en su mayor distancia angular del Sol visto desde la Tierra.

Galaxia - Una masa de hasta varios miles de millones de estrellas unidas por la gravedad.

Cúmulo estelar globular - Un grupo en forma de bola de varios miles de estrellas antiguas.

Año luz (años luz) - La distancia que un rayo de luz viaja a 300.000 km/seg en un año.

Magnitud - El brillo de un objeto celestial tal y como aparece en el cielo.

Cúmulo estelar abierto - Un grupo de decenas o cientos de estrellas relativamente jóvenes.

Oposición - Cuando un cuerpo celeste está opuesto al Sol en el cielo.

Nebulosa planetaria - Los remanentes de una cáscara de gas expulsada por una estrella.

Tiempo Universal (TU) - Un sistema de tiempo usado por los astrónomos. También conocido como Tiempo Medio de Greenwich. La hora estándar del este de EE.UU. (por ejemplo, Nueva York) está 5 horas por detrás de la UT.

Estrella variable - Una estrella que cambia de brillo en un período de tiempo.

Fácilmente visibles a simple vista

Capella	Aur	●	La sexta estrella más brillante. Aparece de color amarillento. Binaria espectroscópica. Dist=42 años luz.
Arcturus	Boo	●	Naranja, estrella K gigante. El nombre significa "observador de osos". Dist=36.7 años luz.
Procyon	CMi	●	Su nombre en griego significa "antes del perro" - Se levanta antes que Sirio (latitudes septentrionales). Dist=11.4 años luz.
δ Cephei	Cep	⊗	Prototipo de cefeida. La Mag varía entre 3,5 y 4,4 en 5.366 días. Compañera de Mag 6.
Deneb	Cyg	●	La estrella más brillante de Cygnus. Una de los mayores supergigantes conocidas. Dist=1.400±200 años luz.
Castor	Gem	■	Sistema estelar múltiple con 6 componentes. 3 estrellas visibles con el telescopio. Dist=52 años luz.
Pollux	Gem	●	Con Castor, los hijos gemelos de Leda en la mitología clásica. Dist=34 años luz.
α Herculis	Her	⊗	Variable semi-regular. La magnitud varía entre 3,1 y 3,9 en 90 días. Compañera de Mag 5.4.
Regulus	Leo	●	La estrella más brillante de Leo. Una estrella blanco-azul con al menos una compañera. Dist = 77 años luz.
Vega	Lyr	●	La quinta estrella más brillante del cielo. Una estrella blanca y azul. Dist=25.0 años luz.
Antares	Scro	●	Estrella roja y supergigante. El nombre significa "rival de Marte". Dist=135.9 años luz.
Polaris	UMi	■	La Estrella Polar del Polo Norte. Un telescopio revela una estrella compañera de Mag 8 no relacionada. Dist=433 años luz.
Spica	Vir	●	El nombre en latín significa "espiga de trigo" y se muestra sostenida en la mano izquierda de Virgo. Dist=250 años luz.

Fácil de observar con prismáticos

M44	Cnc	○	Praesepe o Cúmulo de la Colmena. Visible a simple vista. Dist=590 ±20 años luz.
M3	CVn	⊕	Es fácil de encontrar con prismáticos. Se puede ver a simple vista.
μ Cephei	Cep	⊙	La Estrella Granate de Herschel. Una de las estrellas más rojas. Mag 3.4 a 5,1 durante 730 días.
Mel 111	Com	○	Coma Berenices. 80 estrellas Mag 5-6 en 5 grados. Dist=288 años luz. Edad=400 millones de años.
χ Cygni	cyg	⊙	Una gigante roja pulsante de largo período. La magnitud varía entre 3,3 y 14,2 en 407 días.
M39	Cyg	○	Puede ser visible a simple vista en buenas condiciones. Dist=900 años luz.
v Draconis	Dra	■	Un enorme par de estrellas blancas. Uno de los mejores pares con prismáticos del cielo. Dist=100 años luz.
M13	Her	⊕	El mejor cúmulo globular en los cielos del norte. Descubierto por Halley en 1714. Dist=23.000 años luz.
M92	Her	⊕	Más débil y más pequeño que el M13. Usar un telescopio para identificar sus estrellas.
R Hydrae	Hya	⊙	Largo periodo variable. Mag varía entre 3.0 y 11.0 en 390 días. Rojo brillante
ε Lyrae	Lyr	■	La famosa doble doble. Los prismáticos muestran una estrella doble. La alta energía revela a cada una una estrella doble.
R Lyrae	Lyr	⊙	Variable semi-regular. La magnitud varía entre 3,9 y 5,0 en 46,0 días.
M12	Oph	⊕	Cerca de la más brillante M10. Dist=18.000 años luz.
M10	Oph	⊕	3 grados desde el débil M12. Ambas pueden verse con prismáticos. Dist=14.000 años luz.
IC 4665	Oph	○	Un gran y disperso cúmulo abierto. Visible con prismáticos.

6633	Oph	○	Cúmulo abierto y disperso. Visible con prismáticos.
M4	Sco	⊕	Un cúmulo globular cercano. Puede ser visible sin ayuda óptica. Dist=7.000 años luz.
M5	Ser	⊕	Cúmulo estelar globular bien definido. El telescopio revelará estrellas individuales. Dist=25.000 años luz.
Mizar y Alcor	UMa	■	Una buena vista o unos prismáticos muestran dos estrellas. No es un sistema binario. Mizar tiene una compañera de Mag 4.
Cr 399	Vul	○	El asterismo de Coathanger o " Cúmulo de Brocchi". No es un verdadero cúmulo de estrellas. Dist=218 a 1.140 años luz.

Objetos con telescopio

ε Bootis	Boo	■	Estrella gigante roja (Mag 2.5) con una compañera azul-verde Mag 4.9. Sep=2.8". Difícil de dividir.
M67	Cnc	○	Contiene más de 500 estrellas Mag 10 y más débiles. Uno de los cúmulos más antiguos. Dist = 2.350 años luz.
M94	CVn	∅	Galaxia espiral compacta casi de frente. Dist=15 millones de años luz.
η Cassiopeiae	Cas	■	Estrella amarilla 3.4 y naranja 7.5. Dist = 19 años luz. Órbita = 480 años. Sep=12".
5128	Cen	∅	Dividida por un amplio tramo de oscuridad. Una fuerte fuente de radio. Dist=14 millones de años luz.
M51	CVn	∅	La Galaxia del Remolino. La primera reconocida por tener una estructura espiral. Dist = 25 millones de años luz.
M64	Com	∅	Galaxia Ojo Negro. Descubierta por J.E. Bode en 1775 - "una pequeña y nebulosa estrella".
Albireo	Cyg	■	Hermosa estrella doble. Colores contrastados de naranja y azul-verde. Sep=34.4".
61 Cygni	Cyg	■	Atractiva estrella doble. Mags 5.2 y 6.1 enanas anaranjadas. Dist=11.4 años luz. Sep=28.4".
3242	Hya	✧	Fantasma de Júpiter. Disco azul brillante. Estrella central Mag 11. Dist=2.600 liras.
M83	Hya	∅	La clásica espiral de frente. Descubierta en 1752 por Lacaille. En un interesante campo de estrellas.
y Leonis	Leo	■	Un magnifico par de estrellas gigantes amarillas doradas. Mags 2.2 y 3.5. Órbita = 600 años. Sep=4,4".
β Lyrae	Lyr	⊗	Binaria eclipsante. Mag varía entre 3,3 y 4,3 en 12.940 días. Mag más débil 7.2 estrella azul.
M57	Lyr	✧	Nebulosa del Anillo. Un objeto magnífico. Forma de anillo de humo. Dist=4.100 años luz.
M81	UMa	∅	Hermosa galaxia espiral visible con prismáticos. Fácil de ver con un telescopio.
M82	UMa	∅	Cerca de M81, pero mucho más débil y pequeña.
M87	Vir	∅	Galaxia supergigante con un agujero negro supermasivo en su núcleo. Dist=53.5 millones de años luz.
M104	Vir	∅	Galaxia del Sombrero. Una galaxia casi en espiral. Núcleo central que sobresale.
y Virginis	Vir	■	Un magnifico par de estrellas blancas-amarillas de 3,5 mm de diámetro. Órbita = 169 años. En su punto más cercano en 2005.
M27	Vul	✧	La nebulosa de Dumbbell. Grande, con forma de lóbulos gemelos. La nebulosa planetaria más espectacular. Dist=975 años luz.

The Evening Sky Map

FREE* EACH MONTH FOR YOU TO EXPLORE, LEARN & ENJOY THE NIGHT SKY

Sky Calendar – May 2026



Follow us on Bluesky
skymaps.com/bsky/

- 1 **Full Moon** at 17:24 UT.
- 4 **Moon near Antares** at 1h UT (morning sky). Occultation visible from Antarctica, Argentina, Chile and Bolivia.
- 4 **Moon at apogee** (farthest from Earth) at 22h UT (distance 405,839km; angular size 29.4').
- 6 **Eta Aquariid meteor shower peaks.** Most active for 7 days around this date. Associated with Comet Halley. Very fast, bright meteors, up to 50 per hour. Best seen from the tropics and southern hemisphere a few hours before dawn. In 2026 a waning gibbous Moon will adversely affect the visibility of this shower.
- 9 **Last Quarter Moon** at 21:13 UT.
- 13 **Moon near Saturn** at 18h UT (morning sky). Mag. 0.9.
- 14 **Mercury at superior conjunction** with the Sun at 14h UT (not visible). The innermost planet passes into the evening sky.
- 14 **Moon near Mars** at 22h UT (27° from Sun, morning sky). Mag. 1.2.
- 16 **New Moon** at 20:02 UT. Start of lunation 1279.
- 17 **Moon at perigee** (closest to Earth) at 13:45 UT (distance 358,075km; angular size 33.4').
- 19 **Moon near Venus** at 3h UT (evening sky). Mag. -4.0.
- 19 **Moon, Venus and M35** within 3.7° circle at 5h UT (33° from Sun, evening sky). Mag. -4.0.
- 20 **Moon near Jupiter** at 15h UT (evening sky). Mag. -1.9.
- 21 **Venus 0.76° N of M35 cluster** at 1h UT (evening sky).
- 21 **Moon near Beehive Cluster (M44)** at 17h UT (evening sky).
- 21 **Venus at northernmost declination** (25.1°) at 18h UT.
- 23 **Moon near Regulus** at 5h UT (evening sky). Occultation visible from parts of Oceania.
- 23 **First Quarter Moon** at 11:11 UT.
- 27 **Moon near Spica** at 14h UT (evening sky).
- 31 **Moon near Antares** at 7h UT (midnight sky). Occultation visible from Chile, Argentina, eastern Australia and New Zealand.
- 31 **Full Moon** at 8:46 UT. A "Blue Moon" – the second Full Moon in a month.

More sky events and links at <http://Skymaps.com/skycalendar/>

All times in Universal Time (UT). (Australian Eastern Standard Time = UT + 10 hours.)



Support The Evening Sky Map

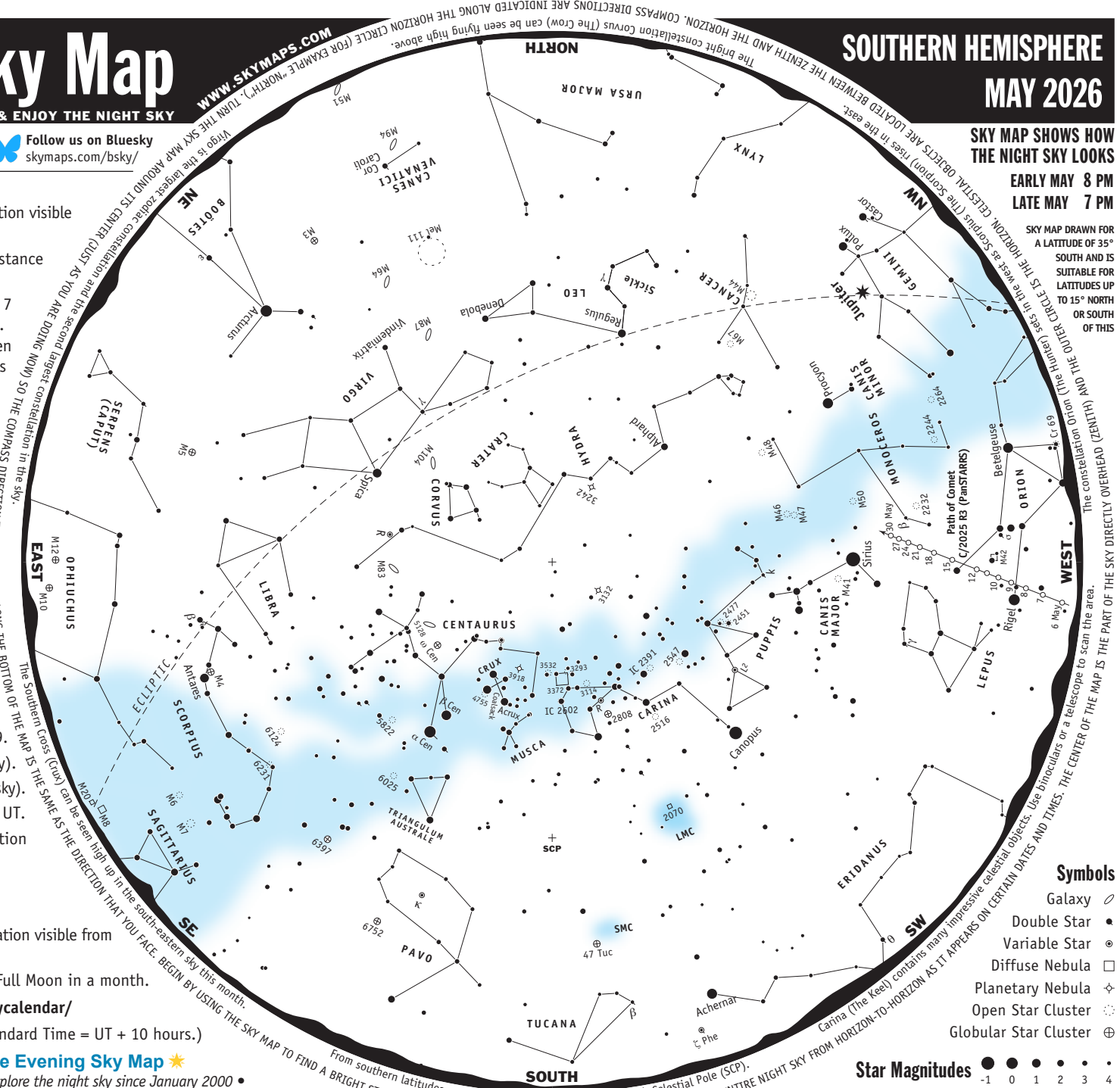
Helping curious minds to explore the night sky since January 2000 • Recommended Products for Sky Watchers: skymaps.com/store/ All sales support the production of this free resource. Thank you.

SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE MAY 2026

SKY MAP SHOWS HOW THE NIGHT SKY LOOKS

EARLY MAY 8 PM
LATE MAY 7 PM

SKY MAP DRAWN FOR A LATITUDE OF 35° SOUTH AND IS SUITABLE FOR LATITUDES UP TO 15° NORTH OR SOUTH OF THIS



Symbols

- Galaxy ☾
- Double Star ●●
- Variable Star ⊙
- Diffuse Nebula □
- Planetary Nebula ☆
- Open Star Cluster ○
- Global Star Cluster ⊕

Star Magnitudes ●●●●●
-1 0 1 2 3 4

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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 MAY 2026 CELESTIAL OBJECTS



Easily Seen with the Naked Eye

Arcturus	Boo	• Orange, giant K star. Name means "bear watcher". Dist=36.7 ly.
Sirius	CMa	• The brightest star in the sky. Also known as the "Dog Star". Dist=8.6 ly.
Procyon	CMi	• Greek name meaning "before the dog" - rises before Sirius (northern latitudes). Dist=11.4 ly.
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.
Castor	Gem	• Multiple star system with 6 components. 3 stars visible in telescope. Dist=52 ly.
Pollux	Gem	• With Castor, the twin sons of Leda in classical mythology. Dist=34 ly.
Regulus	Leo	• Brightest star in Leo. A blue-white star with at least 1 companion. Dist=77 ly.
Rigel	Ori	• The brightest star in Orion. Blue supergiant star with mag 7 companion. Dist=770 ly.
Betelgeuse	Ori	• One of the largest red supergiant stars known. Diameter=300 times that of Sun. Dist=430 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.

Easily Seen with Binoculars

M44	Cnc	• Praesepe or Beehive Cluster. Visible to the naked eye. Dist=590±20 ly.
M41	CMa	• First recorded observation by Aristotle in 325 BC as "cloudy spot". Dist=2,300 ly.
2516	Car	• Spectacular open star cluster of 100 stars spanning 1/2 deg. Dist=1,300 ly.
2808	Car	• 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=8,200 ly.
3532	Car	• Herschel - "most brilliant cluster". 60+ stars in 7x binoculars. Dist=1,300 ly.
ω Centauri	Cen	• Largest and brightest globular star cluster in sky. 1 million stars. Dist=17,000 ly.
Mel 111	Com	• Coma Berenices. 80 mag 5-6 stars in 5 deg. Dist=283 ly. Age=400 million years.
4755	Cru	• Jewel Box. Outstanding star cluster. Many contrasting colours. Dist=7,600 ly.
LMC	Dor	• Large Magellanic Cloud. A neighbouring galaxy of the Milky Way. Dist=180,000 ly.
M48	Hya	• 12+ stars in 7x binoculars. Triangular asterism near centre. Dist=1,990 ly.
R Hydrae	Hya	• Long period variable. Mag varies between 3.0 & 11.0 over 390 days. Brilliant red.
L ²	Pup	• Semi-regular variable. Magnitude varies between 2.6 & 6.2 over 140.42 days.
M47	Pup	• Bright star cluster. 15+ stars in 7x binoculars. Dist=1,500 ly.
M46	Pup	• Dist=5,400 ly. Contains planetary NGC 2438 (Mag 11, d=65") - not associated.
2451	Pup	• 30+ stars in binoculars. The brightest star, χ Puppis, is red. Dist=850 ly.
2477	Pup	• Very rich but distant star cluster (4,200 ly). Resembles globular through binoculars.
M4	Sco	• A close globular. May just be visible without optical aid. Dist=7,000 ly.
M5	Ser	• Fine globular star cluster. Telescope will reveal individual stars. Dist=25,000 ly.
SMC	Tuc	• Small Magellanic Cloud. Companion galaxy to Milky Way. Requires dark sky. Dist=210,000 ly.
2547	Vel	• Fine open cluster visible through binoculars. Dist=1,300 ly.
IC 2391	Vel	• Omicron Velorum Cluster. Superb object for binoculars. Dist=450 ly.

Telescopic Objects

3918	Cen	• The Blue Planetary. Visible in a small telescope as a round blue disk.
5128	Cen	• Bisected by a wide obscuring lane. Strong radio source. Dist=11 million ly.
2070	Dor	• Tarantula Nebula. A bright nebula located in LMC. A star-forming region.
3242	Hya	• Ghost of Jupiter. Bright blue disk. Mag 11 central star. Dist=2,600 ly.
M83	Hya	• Classic face-on spiral. Discovered in 1752 by Lacaille. In attractive star field.
γ Leonis	Leo	• Superb pair of golden-yellow giant stars. Mags 2.2 & 3.5. Orbit=600 years. Sep=4.4".
5822	Lup	• Large, attractive cluster. Dist=1,800 ly. Open cluster NGC 5823 to the south.
k Puppis	Pup	• Telescope easily shows two blue-white stars of almost equal brightness. Sep=9.9".
6124	Sco	• Contains 5 bright tightly packed stars near centre. 7 star chain. Dist=1,600 ly.
3132	Vel	• One of the brightest planetaries. Magnitude 10 central star. Dist=2,600 ly.
M87	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.
γ Virginis	Vir	• Superb pair of mag 3.5 yellow-white stars. Orbit=169 years. At their closest in 2005.

Sobre los Objetos Celestiales

En esta página se enumeran varios de los más brillantes e interesantes objetos celestes visibles en el cielo nocturno de este mes (consulte el mapa del cielo mensual). Los objetos están agrupados en tres categorías. Aquellos que pueden ser fácilmente vistos a simple vista (que es, sin ayuda óptica), los que se ven fácilmente con prismáticos, y los que requieren un telescopio para ser apreciada. **Nota, todos los objetos (excepto las estrellas individuales) parecen más espectaculares cuando se las ve a través de un telescopio o de unos grandes prismáticos.** Se agrupan de esta manera para resaltar los objetos que se pueden ver usando el equipo óptico que puede estar disponible para la observación de las estrellas.

Consejos para observar el cielo nocturno

Al observar el cielo nocturno, y en particular los objetos del cielo profundo como los cúmulos de estrellas, nebulosas, y galaxias, siempre es mejor observar desde un lugar oscuro. Evite la observación directa la luz de las farolas y otras fuentes. Si es posible observar desde un lugar oscuro lejos de la contaminación lumínica que rodea a muchas de las grandes ciudades hoy en día.

Verás más estrellas después de que tus ojos se adapten a la oscuridad, normalmente entre 10 y 20 minutos después de que salgas. Además, si necesitas usar una linterna para ver el cielo mapa, cubra la bombilla con celofán rojo. Esto preservará su visión en la oscuridad.

Finalmente, aunque la Luna es uno de los objetos más impresionantes de ver a través de un telescopio, su luz es tan brillante que ilumina el cielo y hace que muchos de los objetos más débiles son muy difíciles de ver. Así que trata de observar el cielo nocturno en noches sin luna alrededor de la Luna Nueva o del Cuarto Menguante.

Glosario astronómico

Conjunción - Una alineación de dos cuerpos celestes de tal manera que presentan la menor la separación angular vista desde la Tierra.

Constelación - Un área definida del cielo que contiene un patrón de estrellas.

Nebulosa difusa - Una nube de gas iluminada por las estrellas cercanas.

Estrella doble - Dos estrellas que aparecen cerca una de la otra en el cielo; ambas unidas por gravedad para que orbiten entre sí (estrella binaria) o que se encuentren a diferentes distancias de la Tierra (doble óptico). La aparente separación de las estrellas se da en segundos de arco (").

Eclíptica - La trayectoria del centro del Sol en la esfera celeste vista desde la Tierra.

Elongación - La separación angular de dos cuerpos celestes. Para Mercurio y Venus la mayor elongación se produce cuando están en su mayor distancia angular del Sol visto desde la Tierra.

Galaxia - Una masa de hasta varios miles de millones de estrellas unidas por la gravedad.

Cúmulo estelar globular - Un grupo en forma de bola de varios miles de estrellas antiguas.

Año luz (ly) - La distancia que un rayo de luz viaja a 300.000 km/seg en un año.

Magnitud - El brillo de un objeto celestial tal y como aparece en el cielo.

Cúmulo estelar abierto - Un grupo de decenas o cientos de estrellas relativamente jóvenes.

Oposición - Cuando un cuerpo celeste está opuesto al Sol en el cielo.

Nebulosa planetaria - Los remanentes de una cáscara de gas expulsada por una estrella.

Tiempo Universal (TU) - Un sistema de tiempo usado por los astrónomos. También conocido como Tiempo Medio de Greenwich. La hora estándar del este de EE.UU. (por ejemplo, Nueva York) está 5 horas por detrás de la UT.

Estrella variable - Una estrella que cambia de brillo en un período de tiempo.

Fácilmente visibles a simple vista

- Arcturus Boo ● Naranja, estrella K gigante. Su nombre significa "vigilante del oso". Dist=36,7 años luz.
- Sirius CMa ● La estrella más brillante del cielo. También conocida como la "Estrella del Perro". Dist=8.6 años luz.
- Procyon CMi ● Nombre griego que significa " delante del perro" - se eleva antes de Sirio (latitudes septentrionales). Dist=11.4 años luz.
- Canopus Car ● La segunda estrella más brillante del cielo. 14.000 veces más luminosa que el Sol. Dist = 309 años luz.
- β Centauri Cen ● Con Alfa Centauri, forma los llamados " Punteros a la Cruz". Dist=525 años luz.
- α Centauri Cen ● La estrella más cercana al Sol a 4,4 años. Brillante estrella doble con un telescopio. Periodo de 80 años.
- Coalsack Cru ● La nebulosa oscura más famosa a simple vista. Requiere un cielo oscuro. Dist=600 años luz.
- Castor Gem ● Sistema estelar múltiple con 6 componentes. 3 estrellas visibles en el telescopio. Dist=52 años luz.
- Pollux Gem ● Con Castor, los hijos gemelos de Leda en la mitología clásica. Dist=34 años luz.
- Regulus Leo ● La estrella más brillante de Leo. Una estrella blanco-azulada con al menos una compañera. Dist=77 años luz.
- Rigel Ori ● La estrella más brillante de Orión. Una estrella supergigante azul con una compañera de Mag 7. Dist=770 años luz.
- Betelgeuse Ori ● Una de las mayores estrellas rojas supergigantes conocidas. Diámetro = 300 veces el del Sol. Dist=430 años luz.
- Antares Sco ● Estrella roja, supergigante. Su nombre significa "rival de Marte". Dist=135,9 años luz.
- Spica Vir ● El nombre latino significa "espiga de trigo" y se muestra sostenida en la mano izquierda de Virgo. Dist=250 años luz.

Fácil de observar con prismáticos

- M44 Cnc ○ Praesepe o Cúmulo de la Colmena. Visible a simple vista. Dist=577 años luz.
- M41 CMa ○ La primera observación registrada por Aristóteles en el 325 a.C. como "punto nublado". Dist=2,300 años luz.
- 2516 Car ○ Espectacular cúmulo estelar abierto de 100 estrellas que abarca medio grado. Dist=1.300 años luz.
- 2808 Car ⊕ Situado a 4º W de Nu Carinae. Visible a simple vista en las noches claras.
- R Carinae Car ● Variable de período largo. La magnitud varía entre 3,9 y 10,5 durante 309 días.
- 3114 Car ○ Impresionante cúmulo abierto. Más de 30 estrellas visibles a través de prismáticos 7x. Dist=2.900 años luz.
- 3293 Car ○ Ricos, bien compactados. Rodeado de una gran y débil nebulosidad. Dist=8.500 años luz.
- IC2602 Car ○ El " Cinco de Diamantes". Un cúmulo brillante de dos veces el diámetro de la Luna llena. Dist=491 años luz.
- 3372 Car □ La nebulosa Eta Carinae. Una enorme nube brillante en un rico campo de estrellas. Dist=8.000 años luz.
- 3532 Car ○ "El cúmulo más brillante" de Herschel. Más de 60 estrellas con prismáticos 7x. Dist=1.300 años luz.
- ω Centauri Cen ⊕ El cúmulo estelar globular más grande y brillante del cielo. 1 millón de estrellas. Dist=17.000 años luz.
- Mel 111 Com ○ Coma Berenices. 80 estrellas mag 5-6 en 5 deg. Dist=283 años luz. Edad=400 millones de años.
- 4755 Cru ○ Joyero. Excepcional cúmulo de estrellas. Muchos colores contrastados. Dist=7.600 años luz.
- LMC Dor ∕ La gran nube de Magallanes. Una galaxia vecina a la Vía Láctea. Dist=180.000 años luz.
- M48 Hya ○ Más de 12 estrellas con prismáticos de 7x. Asterismo triangular cerca del centro. Dist=1,990 años luz.
- R Hydrae Hya ● Variable de largo periodo. El magnetismo varía entre 3,0 y 11,0 durante 390 días. Rojo brillante.
- L² Pup ● Variable semi-regular. La magnitud varía entre 2,6 y 6,2 en 140,42 días.
- M47 Pup ○ Brillante cúmulo de estrellas. Más de 15 estrellas con prismáticos 7x. Dist=1.500 años luz.
- M46 Pup ○ Dist=5.400 años luz. Contiene la nebulosa planetaria NGC 2438 (Mag 11, d=65") - no asociada.
- 2451 Pup ○ Más de 30 estrellas con prismáticos. La estrella más brillante, χ Puppis, es roja. Dist=850 años luz.
- 2477 Pup ○ Cúmulo estelar muy rico pero distante (4.200 años luz). Se asemeja a un cúmulo globular con prismáticos.
- M4 Sco ⊕ Un cúmulo globular cercano. Puede ser apenas visible sin ayuda óptica. Dist=7.000 años luz.
- M5 Ser ⊕ Magnífico cúmulo estelar globular. El telescopio revelará las estrellas individuales. Dist=25.000 años luz.
- SMC Tuc ∕ Pequeña Nube de Magallanes. Galaxia compañera de la Vía Láctea. Requiere un cielo oscuro. Dist=210.000 años luz.
- 2547 Vel ○ Un fino cúmulo abierto visible a través de los prismáticos. Dist=1.300 años luz.
- IC 2391 vel ○ El grupo de Omicron Velorum. Un objeto magnífico para los prismáticos. Dist=450 años luz.

Objetos con telescopio

- 3918 Cen † La nebulosa planetaria azul. Visible en un telescopio pequeño como un disco azul redondo.
- 5128 Cen ○ Bisectada por un amplio canal de oscurecimiento. Fuerte fuente de radio. Dist=11 millones de años luz.
- 2070 Dor □ Nebulosa de la Tarántula. Una nebulosa brillante ubicada en el Gran Cúmulo de Magallanes LMC. Una región de formación de estrellas.
- 3242 Hya † Fantasma de Júpiter. Disco azul brillante. Estrella central Mag 11. Dist=2.600 años luz.
- M83 Hya ∕ La clásica espiral frontal. Descubierta en 1752 por Lacaille. En un atractivo campo de estrellas.
- γ Leonis Leo ● Magnífica pareja de estrellas gigantes de color amarillo dorado. Mags 2,2 y 3,5. Órbita=600 años. Sep=4,4".
- 5822 Lup ○ Cúmulo grande y atractivo. Dist=1.800 años luz. Cúmulo abierto NGC 5823 al sur.
- κPuppis Pup ● El telescopio muestra fácilmente dos estrellas blanco-azuladas de brillo casi igual. Sep=9,9".
- 6124 Sco ○ Contiene 5 estrellas brillantes y apretadas cerca del centro. Cadena de 7 estrellas. Dist=1.600 años luz.
- 3132 Vel † Uno de las nebulosas planetarias. Estrella central de magnitud 10. Dist=2.600 años luz.
- M87 Vir ∕ Galaxia supergigante con un agujero negro supermasivo en su núcleo. Dist=53,5 millones de años luz.
- M104 Vir ∕ Galaxia del Sombrero. Galaxia espiral casi de canto. Núcleo central sobresaliente.
- γ Virginis vir ● Magnífica pareja de estrellas blanco-amarillas de mag 3,5. Órbita=169 años. En su punto más cercano en 2005.

Calendario del Cielo -- Mayo 2026

- 1 Luna Llena a las 17:24 TU.
- 4 Luna cerca de Antares a la 1h TU (cielo matutino). Ocultación visible desde la Antártida, Argentina, Chile y Bolivia.
Luna en apogeo (más alejada de la Tierra) a las 22h TU (distancia 405,839 km; tamaño angular 29.4').
- 6 Pico máximo de la lluvia de meteoros Eta Acuáridas. Más activa durante 7 días alrededor de esta fecha. Asociada con el cometa Halley. Meteoros muy rápidos y brillantes, hasta 50 por hora. Mejor visible desde los trópicos y el hemisferio sur unas horas antes del amanecer. En 2026, una Luna gibosa menguante afectará negativamente la visibilidad de esta lluvia.
- 9 Luna en cuarto menguante a las 21:13 TU.
- 13 Luna cerca de Saturno a las 18h TU (cielo matutino). Mag. 0.9.
- 14 Mercurio en conjunción superior con el Sol a las 14h TU (no visible). El planeta más interno pasa al cielo vespertino.
Luna cerca de Marte a las 22h TU (27° del Sol, cielo matutino). Mag. 1.2.
- 16 Luna Nueva a las 20:02 TU. Inicio de lunación 1279.
- 17 Luna en perigeo (más cercana a la Tierra) a las 13:45 TU (distancia 358,075 km; tamaño angular 33.4').
- 19 Luna cerca de Venus a las 3h TU (cielo vespertino). Mag. -4.0.
Luna, Venus y M35 dentro de un círculo de 3.7° a las 5h TU (33° del Sol, cielo vespertino). Mag. -4.0.
Luna cerca del cúmulo M35 a las 7h TU (cielo vespertino).
- 20 Luna cerca de Cástor a las 11h TU (cielo vespertino).
Luna cerca de Júpiter a las 15h TU (cielo vespertino). Mag. -1.9.
Luna cerca de Pólux a las 16h TU (cielo vespertino).
- 21 Venus a 0.76° N del cúmulo M35 a la 1h TU (cielo vespertino).
Luna cerca del cúmulo del Pesebre (M44) a las 17h TU (cielo vespertino).
Venus en su declinación más septentrional (25.1°) a las 18h TU.
- 22 Urano en conjunción con el Sol a las 14h TU. Urano pasa al cielo matutino.
- 23 Luna cerca de Régulo a las 5h TU (cielo vespertino). Ocultación visible desde partes de Oceanía.
Luna en cuarto creciente a las 11:11 TU.
- 27 Luna cerca de Spica a las 14h TU (cielo vespertino).
- 31 Luna cerca de Antares a las 7h TU (cielo de medianoche). Ocultación visible desde Chile, Argentina, el de Australia y Nueva Zelanda.
Luna Llena a las 8:46 TU. Una "Luna Azul": la segunda Luna Llena en un mes.

Todos los tiempos en Tiempo Universal (TU). ¡Cielos despejados hasta el próximo mes!