

Our Night Sky for March 31st, 2025

Last week I told you I would describe how to find a bright galaxy so you can follow it this summer. This week the Andromeda galaxy is just climbing up from the northwest horizon. In early summer spotting Andromeda is a little tricky, it is a hand width or two above the north west horizon and about two or three hand widths below the lower left point of the 'W' of Cassiopeia. Andromeda has a magnitude of 3.44 which means you should be able to spot it with your unaided eye. But the galaxy is spread out, even larger than a full moon so the brightness is spread out over a relatively large area. This time of the season you probably will be lucky to spot a faint fuzziness. In fact, if you're in town the background sky glow is about the same as the galaxies brightness so it will likely be simply washed out. If you can find your way to a dark site east of town you will have the best chance of spotting Andromeda. As spring and summer progress and Andromeda climbs higher into the northeastern sky it will become much easier to spot especially if you can find a dark spot away from city sky glow. Spotting Andromeda is made more special because it is the most distant object you can see with your naked eye. The photons that touch your eyes have made a 2.55-million-year trip to reach you. The number of stars in this galaxy has been estimated as high as one trillion stars. A beautiful sight in Our Night Sky.