

Our Night Sky for October 6th, 2025

I often suggest constellations that you can find or point you at planets that are in our sky, there are countless beautiful sights in our night sky. But this week I'm going to point you at nothing. We have already found the constellation Bootes and above it to the left is the familiar Corona Borealis which is the location of that reoccurring nova that lights up several times brighter than normal on a regular timeline. To the left of Bootes and below Corona Borealis is one of the largest empty voids in the known universe. Even with a good telescope or binoculars you might only see an area that seems to have a few less stars. Most of what you see in that area are between here and the great void in Bootes at a distance of about 700 million light years. The void is about 330 to 550 million light years wide. A bubble of space that large would normally have thousands of galaxies in it, this void has a few dozen.

Imagine you're a reckless driver speeding down the highway at 100 km/h and suddenly shut your eyes. How long could you keep them closed? A second or two, maybe. Now imagine you're in a spaceship traveling at 300,000 km/s. This area is so empty, you wouldn't need to look out the window for a thousand years. Even at that speed, you wouldn't risk hitting anything for 330 million years—long before the dinosaurs. Nothing to run into for over 300 million years. It's hard to believe such vast emptiness exists in Our Night Sky.