

Our Night Sky for December 15th, 2025

As I've suggested before, if you only step outside for a few minutes the night sky object to look for is the constellation Orion. And if you are lucky enough to own a small telescope or a good pair of binoculars you may find yourself lingering longer despite the cold.

First off, Orion is very well suited to observing in Prince George. All of the stars that make up the frame of Orion the Hunter are relatively bright stars and easy to locate even with the pretty bright sky glow in Prince George because we have so many un-guarded lights in Town, a situation that with a little care and attention we could do so much better.

But Orion is found in a fairly dense star field and in fact when viewed in a very dark location you may have difficulty picking out the constellation stars. But with a bit of background sky glow the bright stars of Orion stand out and easy to spot high above due south through-out December.

One star, that everybody knows its name, is Orion's upper right shoulder, the very bright Red super giant, Betelgeuse. This is one of the largest stars ever discovered, if it replaced our sun, the outer atmosphere of the star would be well past the orbit of Mars. This star is using its hydrogen fuel so rapidly it is expected to run out and collapse in a super nova in the near future. In star years that might be tomorrow and it might be ten thousand years, just a tick of the clock of star years. And if I had more time we could talk about the Great Orion Nebula, a star nursery, In Our Night Sky