

Our Night Sky for April 6 th 2026

With the arrival of spring and longer hours of daylight of course we have less and less time to enjoy the stars in our night skies. Of course, you can still easily pick out Jupiter high in the southeast still hanging around Gemini. But except for Venus most of the planets are already below the horizon by the time the sun sets. Venus is still trailing the sun and sets about an hour after the sun sets.

Just like in early fall when I suggested watching night after night as Orion slowly became the most prominent constellation in our southern sky by mid December. This spring lets watch as the large W , named Cassiopeia moves higher in our northeastern sky. Along with Cassiopeia is nearby Andromeda, a bit of a challenge to spot but well worth the effort when you do find it. Cassiopeia was a queen that was so extremely vain she was chained to a chair by the Greek God, spending half of each year upside down. Greek mythology was rather brutal

Starting with the right side of the W, the V shape. About twice the height of the right, down facing arrow. Let your dark-adapted rest on that area for a few moments and you should find a slight fuzziness. This is the great galaxy Andromeda. This is the most distant object you can see with the unaided eye, Two and a half million light years. When Edwin Hubble measured this distance and realized how far away Andromeda was and that the Milky Way was not the entire universe as was believed until that night in 1923 when the size of the universe increased to the infinite size that is Our Night Sky