

Messier No.	Name	Special Feature
M1	Crab nebula	Planetary nebula that changes over time. Great colours. Supernova remnants from 1054 AD explosion
M6	Butterfly cluster	Open cluster with large blue stars. Has about 300 stars. Best seen through binoculars
M8	Lagoon nebula	Very colorful emission nebula. Shines by the ionizing ultraviolet radiation of its embedded young stars.
M13	Hercules Cluster	Bright globular cluster with 300,000 - 500,000 stars
M16	Eagle nebula	Emission nebula which contains the pillars of creation
M17	Swan or Omega nebula	Emission nebula. One of largest star forming nebula in our galaxy.
M20	Trifid nebula	A group of newly formed stars at its centre. Blue and red.
M27	Dumbbell or Apple Core nebula	Planetary nebula
M31	Andromeda galaxy	Spiral galaxy that is the closest galaxy to the Milky Way
M33	Triangulum galaxy	Spiral galaxy. Third largest galaxy in our local group of galaxies (Milky way is #1, Andromeda is #2)
M42	Orion Nebula	The closest region of massive star formation. The brightest nebula.
M43	Unnamed Nebula	Adjacent nebula to Orion nebula
M45	Pleiades	Open cluster with several bright stars. Also called the 7 sisters. Recognizable by a pattern of a few stars it actually contains more than 1.000 stars
M51	Whirlpool galaxy	Spiral galaxy with 2 nuclei. Looks like a grand spiral staircase Really tiny so can be difficult to resolve.
M57	The Ring nebula	Planetary nebula. Beautiful colours. White dot in centre is the star's hot core.
M58	M58 galaxy	Barred spiral galaxy. Most distant Messier object May only see the galaxy's core through our telescope
M61	A starburst galaxy	Barred spiral galaxy. About the same size as the Milky Way, 7 supernovas observed in this galaxy. Starburst means rapid star formation. Massive black hole at its centre.
M63	The Sunflower galaxy	Flocculant galaxy (no defined spiral arms). Arms wrapped around its yellow core. Arms shine from radiation from recently formed blue stars.
M64	Black Eye/Evil Eye galaxy	Spiral galaxy. It gets its name from dark band of dust that passes across its nucleus. Strange motion of arms
M76	Cork/Barbell nebula	Planetary nebula. Quite faint so may be difficult to see
M81	M81 galaxy	One of the brightest galaxies in the night sky. Spiral galaxy
M82	Cigar galaxy	Spiral galaxy. Very fast star formation.
M87	Elliptical galaxy	Blue jet emanating from its black hole accretion.
M88	Spiral galaxy	At its centre is super massive black hole (100 million times the size of our sun.). Has 400 billion stars. One of the brightest Messier galaxies and it can be seen in binoculars
M90	Spiral galaxy	Contains a trillion stars and a 1,000 globular clusters
M94	A starburst galaxy	Spiral galaxy. Outer ring of bright, newly formed stars
M95	Barred spiral galaxy	Contains about 40 billion stars. Arms tightly around core

		and appear almost circular.
M96	A barred spiral galaxy	Distinctive spiral arms and bright core. Asymmetrical arms due to gravitational pull of other galaxies
M97	The Owl Nebula	About 8,000 years old. Central star is becoming a white dwarf
M101	The Pinwheel galaxy	Spiral galaxy. Has 1 Trillion stars and is 2x diameter of Milky Way. Its spiral arms are sprinkled with nebula with young blue stars
M104	The sombrero galaxy	Spiral galaxy with 2,000 globular clusters. White bulbous core surrounded by spiral arms of thick dust lanes
M106	A spiral galaxy	Extra set of arms due to massive black hole at its centre. These arms are seen as red wisps of gas.

Magnitude	Light years away	Light year across	Nearest constellation
8.4	6,500	11	Taurus
4.2	1,600	12	Scorpius (in Scorpion's tail)
6	5,200	105,000	Sagittarius
5.8	25,000	145	Hercules
6	7,000	70	Serpens
6	5,500	32	Sagittarius
6.3	9,000	42	Sagittarius
7.5	1,200	2.88	Vulpecula
3.1	2 Million	152,000	Andromeda
5.7	3 Million	14,000	Triangulum
4	1,500	24	Orion
9	1600	9	Orion
1.6	445		Taurus
8.4	31 Million	76,900	Canes Venatici
8.8	2,000	0.9	Lyra
9.8	62 Million	160,000	Virgo
10.2	55 Million	94,000	Virgo
9.3	27 Million		Canes Venatici
9.8	17 Million	70,000	Coma Berenices
12	3,400	1.23	Perseus
6.9	11.6 Million	90,000	Ursa Major
8.4	12 Million	37,000	Ursa Major
9.6	54 Million	120,000	Virgo
9.5	47 Million	115,000	Coma Berenices
9.5	59 Million	105,000	Virgo
9	16 Million		Canes Venatici
9.7	33 Million	46,000	Leo

10.1	35 Million	76,000	Leo
9.9	2,030	1.8	Ursa Major
7.9	25 Million	170,000	Ursa Major
8	28 Million	50,000	Virgo
9.1	24 Million	135,000	Canes Venatici

April
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