

Turn Left at Orion

January-March Objects

Name	Constellation	Object Type	Object Size/		Rating			For Best View:		Coordinates		notes	page	additional description
			Magnitudes	Double Star Separation	Dob	small	binocs	sky	magnification	Right Ascension	Declination			
M42	Orion	Diffuse Nebula	4	60" by 65'	5	5	5	any	low/medium	5 H 35.3 min.	-5° 25'	Orion Nebula - spectacular!	52	a truly spectacular emission nebula surrounding the Trapezium
M43	Orion	Diffuse Nebula	9	15' by 20'	2	1	x	dark	low/medium	5 H 35.6 min.	-5° 16'	companion nebula to M42	52	emission nebula, nestled up near M42
NGC 1981	Orion	Open Cluster	4.2	28'	2	1	x	dark	low	5 H 35.1 min.	-5° 25'	open cluster near M42	53	open cluster near M42; poor with medium brightness range and strong central concentration
NGC 1980	Orion	Diffuse Nebula	7.9	14"	2	1	x	dark	low	5 H 35.4 min.	-4° 54'	nebula near M42	53	open cluster near M42 containing some nice multiple stars
Struve 745	Orion	Double Star	8.5, 8.5	29"	1	1	x	steady	medium	5 H 34.7 min.	-6° 0'	double star near M42	54	dimmer white-white pair, near Struve 747
Struve 747	Orion	Double Star	4.7, 5.5	36"	1	1	x	steady	medium	5 H 35 min.	-6° 0'	double star near M42	54	wide white-white pair, near Iota Orionis
Iota Orionis	Orion	Double Star	2.9, 7.0, 9.7	11", 49"	1	1	x	steady	medium	5 H 35.4 min.	-5° 54'	double star near M42	54	unequal triple: blue-white-white
Theta-1 Orionis, Trapezium	Orion	Multiple Star	5.1, 6.6, 6.6, 6.3, 11.1, 11.5	13", 17", 12", 5", 5"	5	4	x	steady	medium	5 H 35.3 min.	-5° 25'	Trapezium, sextuple star with M42	55	at the core of M42; the two dimmer stars are challenging
Theta-2 Orionis	Orion	Double Star	5.2, 6.5	52"	1	1	x	steady	high	5 H 35.4 min.	-5° 26'	double star near M42	55	very wide, bright white-white pair
BM Orionis	Orion	Variable Star	7.9-8.65; 6.47 days		1	1	x	any	high	5 H 35.3 min.	-5° 23'	eclipsing variable in the Trapezium	55	most northerly of the Trapezium stars
V1016 Orionis	Orion	Variable Star	6.7-7.65; 65.43 days		1	1	x	any	medium	5 H 35.3 min.	-5° 23'	eclipsing variable in the Trapezium	55	most westerly of the four bright Trapezium stars
Struve 761	Orion	Multiple Star	7.9, 8.4, 8.6	67", 8.7"	3	3	1	steady	high	5 H 38.6 min.	-2° 34'	triple star, with Sigma Orionis	56	white-white-white triple (double plus one) in field with Sigma Orionis
Sigma Orionis	Orion	Multiple Star	3.7, 8.8, 6.6, 6.3	11", 13", 41"	3	3	1	steady	high	5 H 38.7 min.	-2° 36'	quadruple star, with Struve 761	56	quadruple star: all white - in field with Struve 761
Beta Orionis, Rigel	Orion	Double Star	0.3, 6.8	9.3"	3	x	x	steady	high	5 H 14.5 min.	-8° 12'	one of the Orion Dob doubles	58	a delightful Dob challenge due to the huge brightness difference
Eta Orionis	Orion	Double Star	3.6, 4.9	1.8"	3	x	x	steady	high	5 H 24.5 min.	-2° 24'	one of the Orion Dob doubles	58	close yellow-blue pair
32 Orionis	Orion	Double Star	4.4, 5.7	1.2"	3	x	x	steady	high	5 H 30.8 min.	5° 57'	one of the Orion Dob doubles	58	very close yellow-blue pair
Delta Orionis, Mintaka	Orion	Double Star	2.2, 6.8	53"	3	x	x	steady	high	5 H 32 min.	0° 20'	one of the Orion Dob doubles	58	wide, unequal white-blue pair
Lambda Orionis, Meissa	Orion	Double Star	3.5, 5.4	4.1"	3	x	x	steady	high	5 H 35.1 min.	9° 56'	one of the Orion Dob doubles	58	bright white-white pair
42 Orionis	Orion	Double Star	4.6, 7.5	1.1"	3	x	x	steady	high	5 H 35.4 min.	-4° 50'	one of the Orion Dob doubles	58	very close and unequal white-white pair near M42 - very challenging
Zeta Orionis, Anitak	Orion	Double Star	1.9, 3.7	2.5"	3	x	x	steady	high	5 H 40.8 min.	-1° 59'	one of the Orion Dob doubles	58	close, blue-white pair
52 Orionis	Orion	Double Star	6.0, 6.0	1.1"	3	x	x	steady	high	5 H 48 min.	6° 27'	one of the Orion Dob doubles	58	very close, equal white-white pair
Omicron-2 Eridani, Keid	Eridanus	Double Star	4.5, 10.2, 11.5	83", 7"	2	1	x	steady	high	4 H 15.3 min.	-7° 39'	Spock's 'Vulcan' & a white dwarf	60	B-C pair is far from A: B is a white dwarf and C is a red dwarf, too dim to show color
NGC 1535	Eridanus	Planetary Nebula	9.6	0.8"	2	1	x	dark	high	4 H 14.3 min.	-12° 44'	planetary nebula in Eridanus	60	small, blue planetary nebula
39 Eridani	Eridanus	Double Star	5.0, 8.5	6.3"	1	1	x	steady	high	4 H 14.4 min.	-10° 15'	double star near NGC 1535	60	moderately challenging double
h 3752	Lepus	Double Star	5.4, 6.6	3.4"	1	1	x	steady	high	5 H 22.5 min.	-24° 46'	double star near M79	62	
M79	Lepus	Globular Cluster	7.7	9'	2	1	x	dark	medium	5 H 24.2 min.	-24° 31'	globular in Lepus	62	globular cluster; intermediate concentration
M45	Taurus	Open Cluster	1.6	120'	3	3	4	any	lowest	3 H 46.9 min.	24° 7'	the Pleiades (Seven Sisters)	64	nebulousity near the stars is challenging to see
Struve 118	Taurus	Double Star	5.8, 6.7	4.4"	1	1	x	steady	high	5 H 29.3 min.	25° 9'	near M1	66	yellow-white pair near M1
Struve 742	Taurus	Double Star	7.1, 7.5	4.1"	2	2	x	steady	high	5 H 36.4 min.	22° 0'	near M2	66	dim yellow-blue pair just east of M1
M1	Taurus	Supernova Remnant	8.4	4' by 6'	3	1	x	dark	low	5 H 34.5 min.	22° 1'	the Crab Nebula	66	remnant nebula from 1054 supernova
M38	Auriga	Open Cluster	6.4	15'	3	2	1	any	low	5 H 28.7 min.	35° 51'	with M36 & M37	68	open cluster; moderately rich with medium brightness range and strong central concentration
M36	Auriga	Open Cluster	6	10'	3	2	1	any	low	5 H 35.3 min.	34° 9'	with M37 & M38	68	open cluster; moderately rich with large brightness range and strong central concentration
M37	Auriga	Open Cluster	5.6	15'	3	2	1	any	low	5 H 52.3 min.	32° 34'	with M36 & M38	68	open cluster; rich with small brightness range and strong central concentration
Omega Aurigae	Auriga	Double Star	5.0, 8.2	4.8"	2	1	x	steady	high	4 H 59.3 min.	37° 53'	double star near M36-37-38	70	
14 Aurigae	Auriga	Double Star	5.9, 8.8	10", 14", 2"	2	1	x	steady	high	5 H 15.4 min.	32° 41'	multiple star near M36 & M38	70	yellow-blue pair; the dimmer blue pair is a Dob challenge - the brighter has a dim companion
26 Aurigae	Auriga	Double Star	5.5, 8.4	12"	1	1	x	steady	high	5 H 38.6 min.	30° 30'	double star near M37	70	yellow-blue pair, between El Nath and M37
NGC 1907	Auriga	Open Cluster	8.2	5'	1	x	x	any	low	5 H 28.1 min.	35° 19'	dim open cluster near M38	71	open cluster; moderately rich with small brightness range and strong central concentration
LY Aurigae	Auriga	Variable	6.66-7.35; 4.00 days		1	1	1	any	any	5 H 29.7 min.	35° 23'	eclipsing variable star near M38	71	
M35	Gemini	Open Cluster	5.1	25'	3	3	3	any	low	6 H 8.8 min.	24° 20'	great open cluster in Gemini	72	wonderful open cluster; in a Dob look for NGC 2158 nearby
NGC 2158	Gemini	Open Cluster	8.6	5'	1	x	x	dark	low	6 H 7.4 min.	24° 05'	dim open cluster, in field with M35	73	open cluster in field with M35; a pleasant, grainy counterpart to its great neighbor
Eta Geminorum, Propus	Gemini	Double Star	3.5, 6.2	1.7"	2	x	x	steady	high	6 H 14.9 min.	22° 30'	double star near M35	73	Dob challenge double brighter star looks orange and dimmer looks colorful by contrast
15 Geminorum	Gemini	Double Star	6.6, 8.2	25"	2	2	x	any	low	6 H 27.8 min.	20° 47'	double star near M36	73	wide, orange-blue pair
NGC 2129	Gemini	Open Cluster	6.7	6'	1	x	x	dark	low	6 H 1.1 min.	23° 19'	with M35	73	open cluster; poor with large brightness range and strong central concentration
Alpha Geminorum, Castor	Gemini	Triple Star	1.9, 3.0, 9.8	4.8", 70"	3	2	x	steady	high	7 H 34.6 min.	31° 53'	bright multiple star, with NGC 2392	74	very bright, close blue pair with a very dim, distant companion
NGC 2392	Gemini	Planetary Nebula	9.1	0.9"	3	2	x	dark	high	7 H 29.2 min.	20° 55"	'Clown Face' nebula, with Castor	74	planetary nebula
Lambda Geminorum	Gemini	Double Star	3.6, 10.7	9.7"	1	x	x	steady	high	7 H 18.1 min.	16° 32'	double star near Castor & NGC 2392	75	yellow-blue Dob double, challenging because of huge brightness difference
Delta Geminorum, Wasat	Gemini	Double Star	3.6, 8.2	5.6"	1	x	x	steady	high	7 H 20.1 min.	21° 59'	double star near Castor & NGC 2393	75	Dob challenge due to unequal brightness; brighter star is white and dimmer star is orange
Struve 1083	Gemini	Double Star	7.3, 8.1	6.8"	2	1	x	steady	high	7 H 25.6 min.	20° 30'	double star near Castor & NGC 2394	75	yellow-blue pair
Struve 1108	Gemini	Double Star	6.6, 8.2	11"	1	1	x	steady	high	7 H 32.8 min.	22° 53'	double star near Castor & NGC 2395	75	yellow-blue pair
Kappa Geminorum	Gemini	Double Star	3.7, 8.2	7"	1	x	x	steady	high	7 H 77.4 min.	24° 24'	double star near Castor & NGC 2396	75	challenging, unequal Dob double
NGC 2244	Monoceros	Open Cluster	4.8	24'	2	1	1	any	low	6 H 31.9 min.	4° 56'	inside the Rosette	76	open cluster; poor with large brightness range and strong central concentration
Rosette	Monoceros	Diffuse Nebula	6	60' by 75' NW-SE	3	1	1	dark	low	6 H 30.3 min.	5° 3'	huge nebula surrounding NGC 2244	76	lovely, huge nebula for dark night, with bright open cluster inside
Epsilon Monocerotis	Monoceros	Double Star	4.4, 6.4	12"	1	1	x	steady	high	6 H 23.8 min.	4° 36'	double star near the Rosette	77	subtle colors
Beta Monocerotis	Monoceros	Triple Star	4.6, 5.0, 5.3	7.2", 2.9"	3	3	x	steady	high	6 H 28.8 min.	-7° 2'	bright triple star	78	appealing white-blue-blue triple star; to get there you 'turn left at Orion'!!
NGC 2232	Monoceros	Open Cluster	4.2	45'	3	3	2	any	low	6 H 27.2 min.	-4° 45'	open cluster near Beta Monocerotis	78	open cluster; poor with large brightness range
M50	Monoceros	Open Cluster	5.9	15'	2	2	1	any	low	7 H 2.9 min.	-8° 20'	colorful open cluster in Monoceros	80	open cluster; moderately rich with large brightness range and strong central concentration
Alpha Canis Majoris, Sirius	Canis Major	Double Star	-1.4, 8.5	8.4"	1	x	x	very steady	highest	6 H 45.1 min.	-16° 43'	extreme Dob binary challenge	81	brightest star in sky; exceptionally tough double for big Dob (second star lost deep in glare)
Mu Canis Majoris	Canis Major	Double Star	7.95, 3, 7.1	3"	2	x	x	steady	highest	6 H 56.1 min.	-14° 3'	Dob binary challenge	81	very tough Dob double; extreme brightness contrast, yellow-blue
Alpha Canis Minoris, Procyon	Canis Minor	Double Star	0.4, 10.8	4.7"	1	x	x	very steady	highest	7 H 39.3 min.	5° 13'	extreme Dob binary challenge	81	very challenging, with huge brightness contrast
M41	Canis Major	Open Cluster	4.5	35'	3	3	2	any	low	6 H 47 min.	-20° 45'	open cluster in Canis Major	82	open cluster; moderately rich with large brightness range and strong central concentration
M47	Puppis	Open Cluster	4.4	25'	3	2	2	any	low	7 H 36.6 min.	-14° 29'	bright open cluster; with M46	84	open cluster; loose and bright, with a dozen stars much brighter than the others
M46	Puppis	Open Cluster	6.1	20'	3	2	1	dark	low	7 H 41.8 min.	-14° 49'	open cluster; with M47	84	open cluster; partly resolved haze of stars with planetary nebula NGC 2438 in front
NGC 2414	Puppis	Open Cluster	7.9	6'	1	x	x	dark	low	7 H 33.2 min.	-15° 27'	open cluster near M47	85	open cluster; moderately rich with large brightness range and strong central concentration
NGC 2423	Puppis	Open Cluster	6.7	12"	1	1	x	dark	medium	7 H 37.1 min.	-13° 52'	open cluster in field with M47	85	open cluster; moderately rich with medium brightness range
NGC 2438	Puppis	Planetary Nebula	10.8	1.2"	1	x	x	any	high	7 H 41.8 min.	-14° 44'	planetary in front of M46	85	planetary nebula
Herschel 3945, Winter Albiere	Canis Major	Double Star	5.0, 5.8	26"	3	2	x	any	low	7 H 16.6 min.	-23° 19'	colorful double near NGC 2362	86	lovely red-orange double
NGC 2362	Canis Major	Open Cluster	3.8	6'	3	2	1	any	medium	7 H 18.7 min.	-24° 57'	open cluster in Canis Major	86	open cluster; poor with large brightness range and strong central concentration
Epsilon Canis Majoris, Adhar.	Canis Major	Double Star	1.5, 7.5	7"	1	x	x	steady	highest	6 H 58.6 min.	-28° 58'	Dob binary challenge	87	Dob challenge double
M93	Puppis	Open Cluster	6.2	10'	3	3	1	any	medium	7 H 44.5 min.	-23° 52'	open cluster in Puppis	88	open cluster with small brightness range
k Puppis	Puppis	Double Star	4.4, 4.6	9.8"	2	2	x	steady	high	7 H 38.8 min.	-26° 48'	double star near M93	89	cat's-eyes white-white pair