



Galileo's New World

Post-visit
Proposals for naked eye observations



Tips for naked eye observations

Some celestial objects are easily identifiable, even without the aid of an app. Here are some examples to start with:

1. **Moon:** observe and document the lunar phases
2. Some of the **brightest stars:**
 - a. Polaris in the northern constellation of Ursa Minor: to individuate it, find the two stars (Merak and Dubhe) on the end of the Big Dipper's body in the Ursa Major constellation and extend the imaginary line that joins them about five times its size to find the tip of the handle of the Little Dipper, in the Ursa Minor constellation
 - b. Arcturus in the Boötes constellation, easily spottable following the three stars constituting the handle of the Big Dipper
 - c. Aldebaran in the Taurus constellation: just find the Orion belt and follow the three stars from left to right, or right to left if you are in the southern hemisphere, to find the next brightest star;
 - d. Sirius in the Canis Major, it is easily located southeast of the brilliant constellation of Orion.
3. All **planets** of our Solar System with the exception of Uranus and Neptune are visible to the naked eye.
 - a. Venus is the brightest celestial object after the Sun and the Moon
 - b. Mars has a vivid red coloration
 - c. Jupiter is recognizable very well for at least eight months a year, it has a yellow-orange coloration and, although more distant, appears larger than Mars.
 - d. Saturn's rings are distinguishable even with a basic telescope with a minimum magnification of 30 times.
4. **Artificial objets**
 - a. The International Space Station (IIS). You can find how to spot it from where you are at <https://spotthestation.nasa.gov/>
 - b. Airplanes and satellites whose flashing light travels faster than any other celestial object