

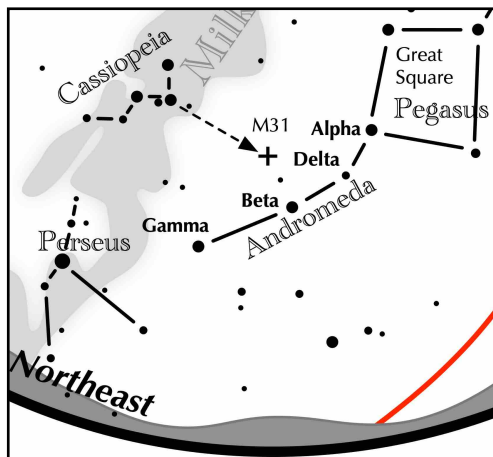


Can you easily find the nearest large spiral galaxy?

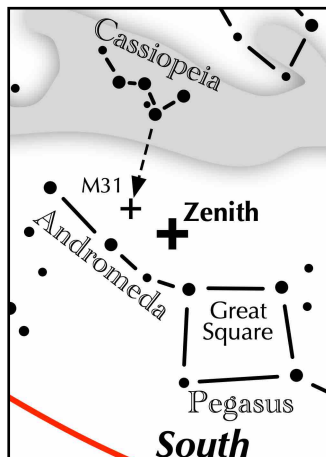
Every Curious Skywatcher should know how to find the Andromeda Galaxy, M31



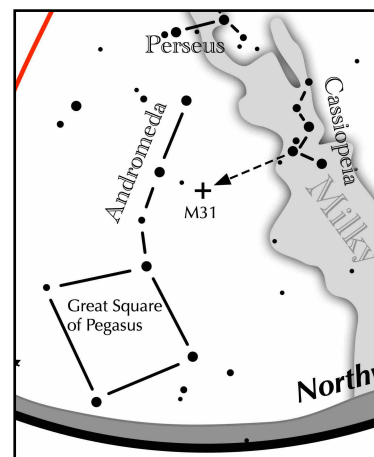
Visible in the early evening sky from late September through early March.



Early fall in the east-northeast



Early winter high in the south near the zenith



Early spring in the west-northwest



The Andromeda Galaxy, M31, is easy to spot with the unaided eye in a dark sky as a dim, elongated smudge. Through 10x50 binoculars, it is an obvious sight. Its companion galaxy, M32, might be glimpsed as well.

Two methods for locating M31:

Method 1.

1. Locate the constellation of Cassiopeia.
2. Draw an arrow extending south through the three westernmost stars of the constellation.
3. Extend that arrow the same length that Cassiopeia is wide.
4. It lands on M31.

Method 2.

1. Locate the Great Square of Pegasus.
2. Find the gently curving line of stars beginning at the Square's northeast corner star and extending northeast.
3. At Beta Andromedae, turn 90° to the northwest and move the same distance that Beta Andromedae is from Delta.
4. That spot is at M31.

