

10 Easiest Deep Sky Objects To See With Small Telescopes

Name	Distance (Light years)	Magnitude (Brightness)	Description
1. Pleiades	444.2	1.6	The open cluster stars located in constellation Taurus is located about 10 degrees north of Jupiter. It is one of the nearest star clusters to the Earth and, therefore, makes for one of the best targets and easiest deep sky objects to see with small telescopes.
2. Andromeda Galaxy	2.537 million	3.44	The closest major galaxy to the Milky Way, Andromeda is distinctly visible even without any aid on moonless nights. It may appear similar to a star through a small telescope. Through a larger one, it appears 6 times wider than the full Moon.
3. Double Cluster (NGC 884 and NGC 869) in Perseus	7500	3.7 and 3.8	Open clusters NGC 884 and NGC 869 form the Double Cluster in constellation Perseus. It can be viewed as a bright and sparkling cluster of stars of vivid colors in the night sky. Each cluster consists of about 300 stars of extreme brightness.
4. The Orion Nebula (M42)	1344	4	The Orion nebula is one of the brightest nebulae and can be spotted even with an unaided eye. It is one of the most popular objects in the night sky and has been extensively studied by professionals.
5. The Great Globular Cluster in Hercules	25100	5.8	The globular cluster consists of 300,000 stars in the Hercules constellation. It makes for one of the easiest deep sky objects to see with small telescopes thanks to its massive width of 145. It can be located at 20 degrees to the West of constellation Lyra.
6. Albireo	380	Albireo A (amber, 3.1) Albireo B (blue-green, 5.1)	Albireo is the fifth brightest star in the Cygnus constellation. Even though to the naked eye it might appear as a single star, through an amateur telescope it can be distinctly identified as a double star. It makes for the best contrasting double star due to the difference in their colors.
7. M81 – Bode’s Galaxy	12 million	6.94	The spiral galaxy lies in the constellation Ursa Major. Owing to its large size, active galactic nucleus and brightness, the galaxy is quite easy to see even for amateurs. To find it go 10° northwest of Alpha Ursae Majoris.
8. Dumbbell Nebula (M27)	1360	7.5	Lying in the constellation Vulpecula, the planetary nebula is only about 1,360 light years from earth. It has a diameter of 8 arcminutes and is easily visible with small telescopes and binoculars.
9. M1 Crab Nebula	6523	8.4	Named after its crab-like shape, Crab Nebula is a supernova remnant. It lies in the Perseus Arm of the Milky Way and even though it cannot be seen with the naked eye, it can rather simply be found by binoculars.
10. M51 Whirlpool Galaxy	22 million	8.4	One of the most well-known galaxies and extremely popular among amateurs as well as professional astronomers! The spiral galaxy might be even visible with binoculars. To find it go 3.5° southwest from the easternmost star of the Big Dipper.

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