

# Constellation Guide

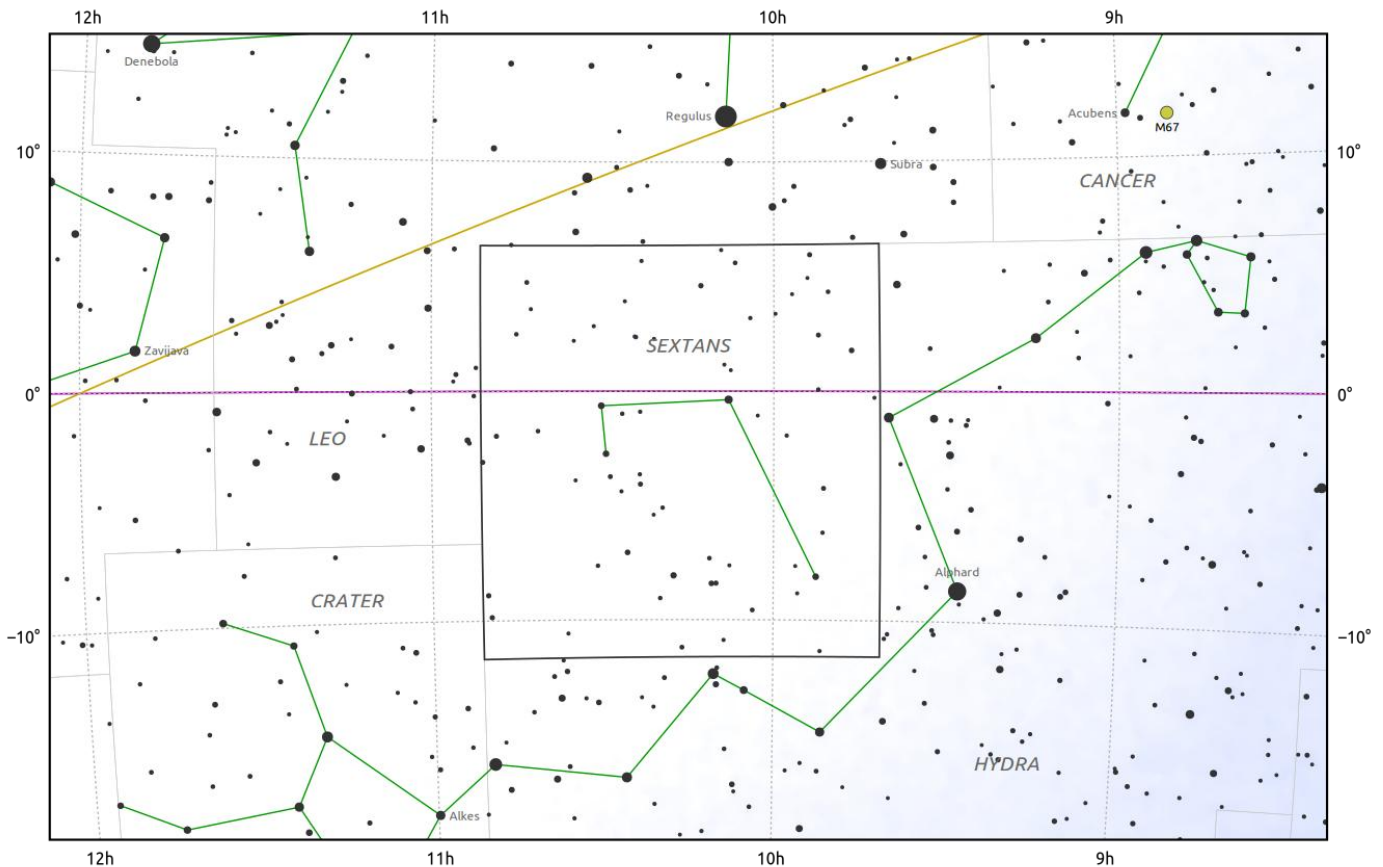
## Sextans (Sex)

Evening Visibility: **February - April**

Online Information: [Sextans](#)

More Online Information: [35 Sextantis](#), Rinnan's Run, [NGC-3166](#), [NGC-3169](#), NGC-3165, [Sextans A](#), [NGC-3115](#), W Sextantis

### [In-The-Sky.org](#) Constellation Map



© Dominic Ford 2011–2026. Downloaded from <https://in-the-sky.org>

Magnitude scale: • 6.0 • 5.0 • 4.0 • 3.0 • 2.0 • 1.0

— The Equator — Ecliptic Plane — Galactic Plane

● Galaxy ■ Bright nebula ● Open cluster ● Globular cluster ◆ Planetary nebula

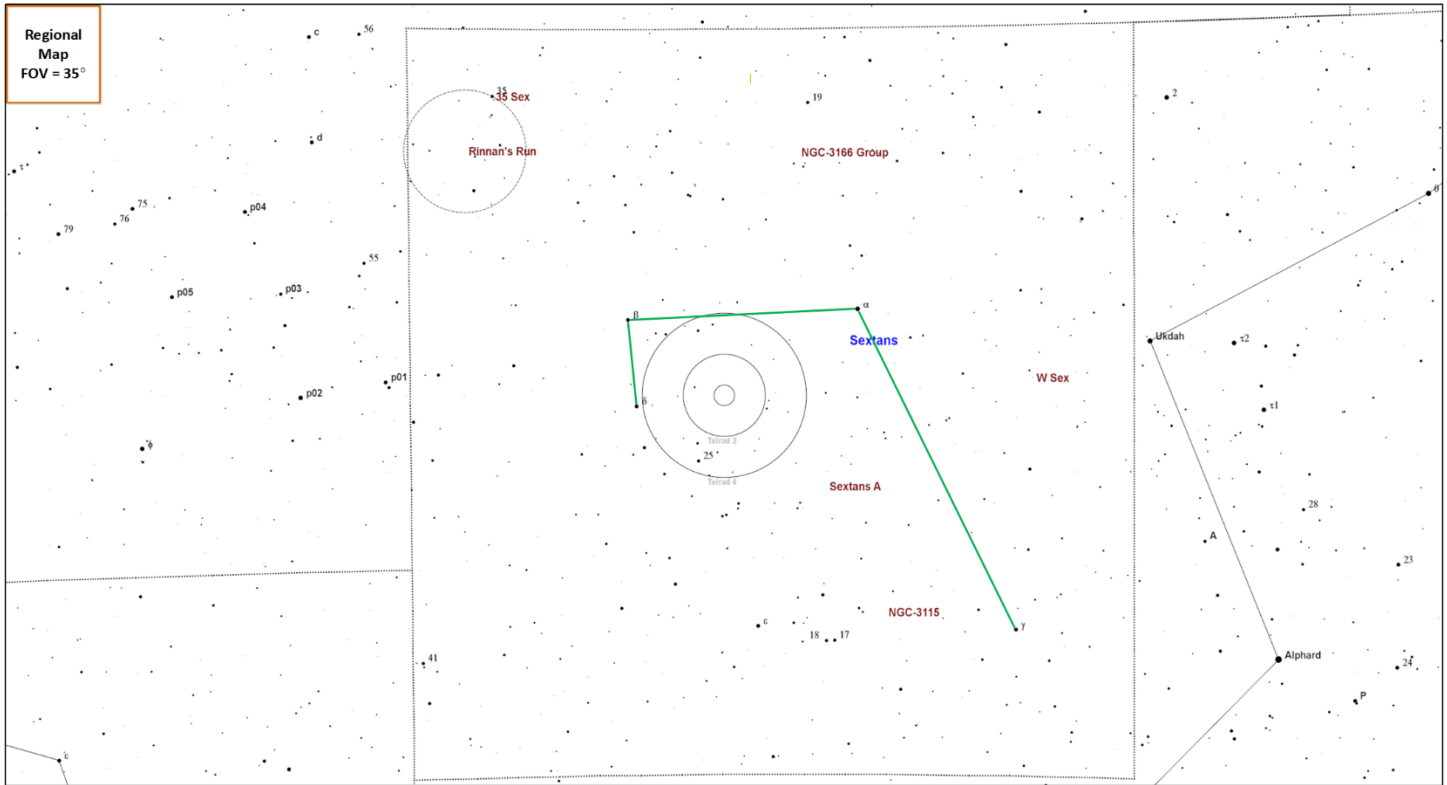
This constellation was created by the Polish astronomer Johannes Hevelius in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and represents the astronomical sextant. This is a rather small and dim constellation visible at latitudes between +80° and -90°. Sextans contains a number of interesting galaxies and five stars located within 33 light years (10 parsecs) of Earth.

# Constellation Guide

## Constellation Highlights

- **NGC-3166, 3165, 3169 (G)** – Group of three galaxies within 30' of each other.
- **35 Sextantis (DS)** – Yellow and Orange double star system.
- **Sextans A (G)** – Square shaped dwarf irregular galaxy.

## Constellation Targets Map

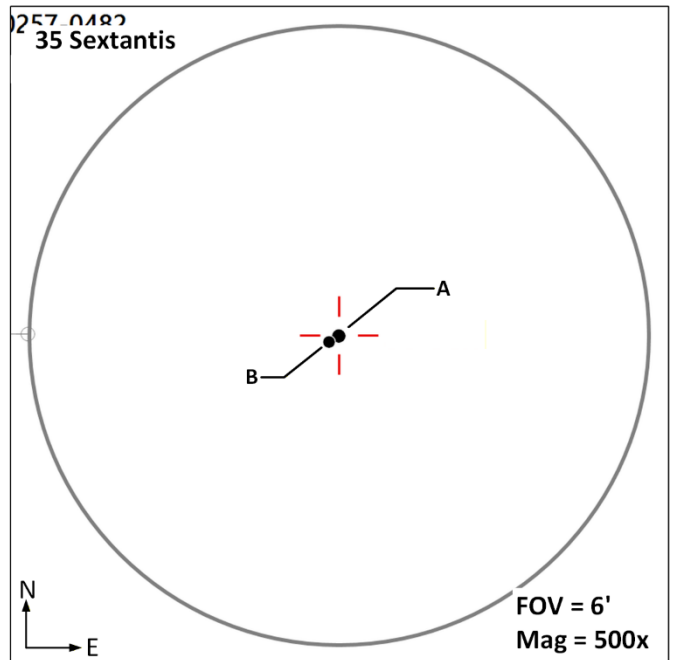
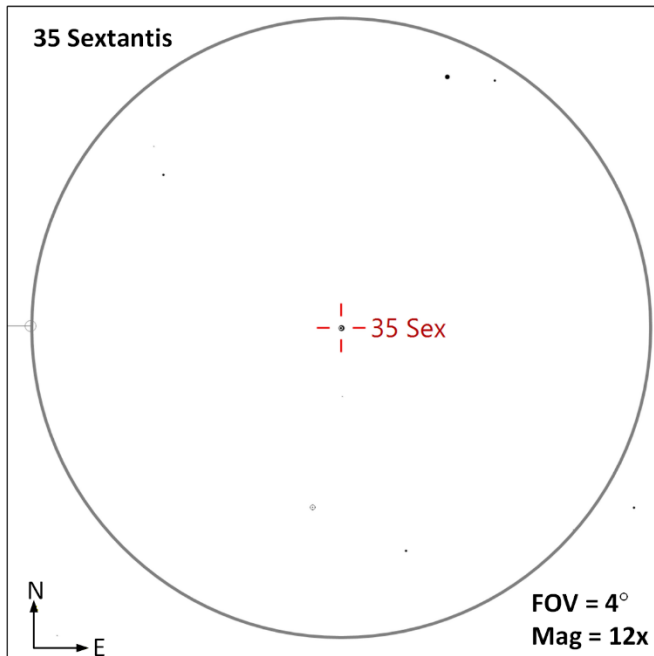


## Region Objects Summary

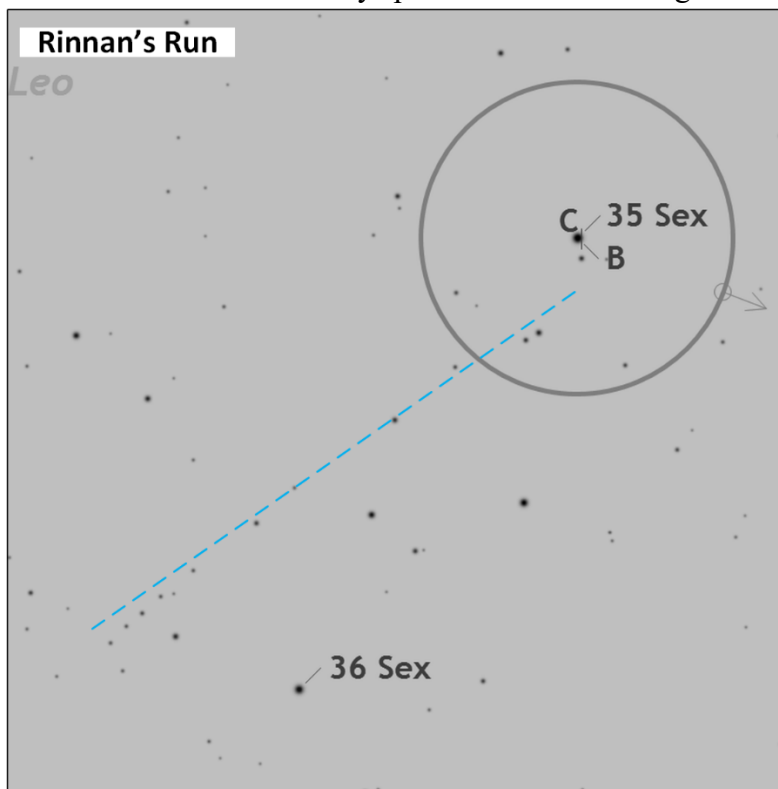
Object (Type)	Ref	Aliases	Stats
35 Sextantis (DS)	<a href="#">1</a> , <a href="#">2</a>	SAO-118449, HIP-52452, 35 Sex, HR 4193, HD 92841, STF 1466, ADS 7902	AB   M=6.2, 7.1   Sep=6.8''   PA=239°   Period = 1,568 d   MC= K2.5 III, K1 II-III
Rinnan's Run (AS)		Rinnan 1, Rinnan's Run, Ramakers 47, APOC6720	Stars=12   Size=3°   Ref Star: 35 Sex (SAO-118449, HIP-52452)
NGC-3166 Group (NGC-3166, 3169, 3165)			
NGC-3166 (G)	<a href="#">1</a>	UGC 5516, PGC 29814, MCG 1-26-24	M=10.5   Size=4.8' x 2.3'   SB=12.7   MC=So-a
NGC-3169 (G)	<a href="#">1</a>	UGC 5525, PGC 3440583	M=10.3   Size=4.2' x 2.9'   SB=21.6   MC=Sa
NGC-3165 (G)		UGC 5512, PGC 29798, MCG 1-26-23, CGCG 36-63	M= 13.9   Size=1.3' x 0.7'   SB=22.4   MC=Sm
Sextans A (G)	<a href="#">1</a>	UGCA 205, PGC 29653, MCG -1-26-30, DDO 75	M=11.9   Size=5.9' x 4.9'   SB=24.2   MC=IBm
NGC-3115 (G)	<a href="#">1</a>	Caldwell 53, UGCA 199, PGC 29265, C 53, Spindle Galaxy	M=9.9   Size=7.2'x2.5'   SB=21.7   MC = E-S0   UGCA 200, PGC 29299
W Sextantis (CS)		HIP 48316, HD 85319, BD -01 2312, W Sex	Mag Range: 10.3 to 12.5   Period=134 d   MC=C0e

# Constellation Guide

**35 Sextantis** (DS AB | M=6.2, 7.1 | Sep=6.8" | PA=239° | Period = 1,568 d | MC= K2.5 III, K1 II-III )– This Yellow/Orange double star system is located 700 ly away. These stars orbit each other every 4.3 years. The “B” component is a spectroscopic binary and cannot be separated by earth bound telescopes.



**Rinnan’s Run** (AS | Stars=12 | Size=3° )– Starting from 35 Sextantis there is a line of stars running about 3° SSW. Near the bottom of the row a set five of closely spaced stars terminating the line.



# Constellation Guide

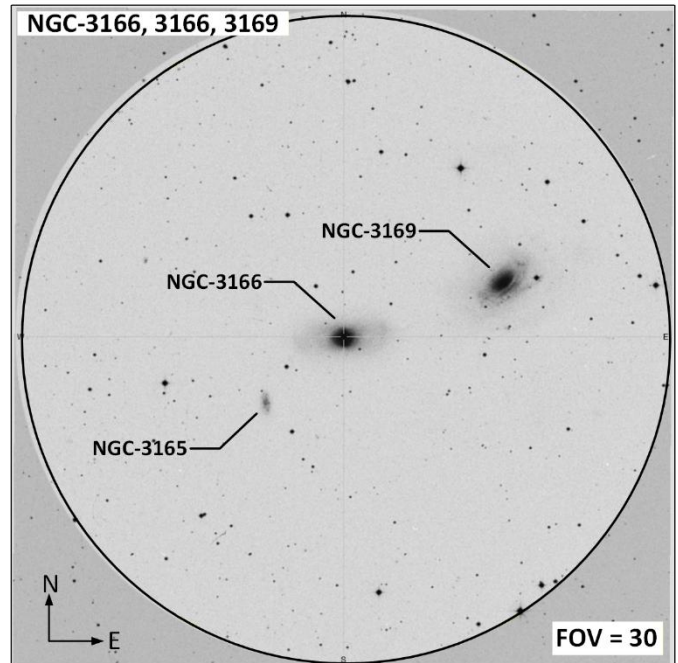
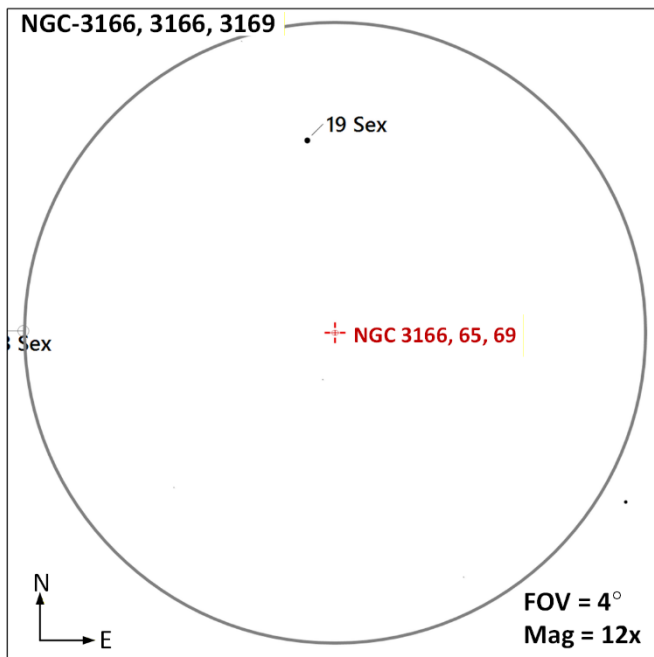
## NGC-3166 Group

The three galaxies NGC-3166, NGC3169 and NGC-3169 all appear within a 30' field of view and are located in close physical proximity to each other. The three are embedded within an extended ring of neutral hydrogen that is centered on NGC 3169. The three galaxies are part of the [Leo II Group](#) of galaxies, a large cloud of galaxies in the [Virgo Supercluster](#).

**NGC-3166** (G | M=10.5 | Size=4.8' x 2.3' | SB= | MC=So-a |)– A lenticular galaxy located 65 million light years from earth with a diameter of 105,000 light years. This galaxy is the center galaxy of a three-galaxy pair.

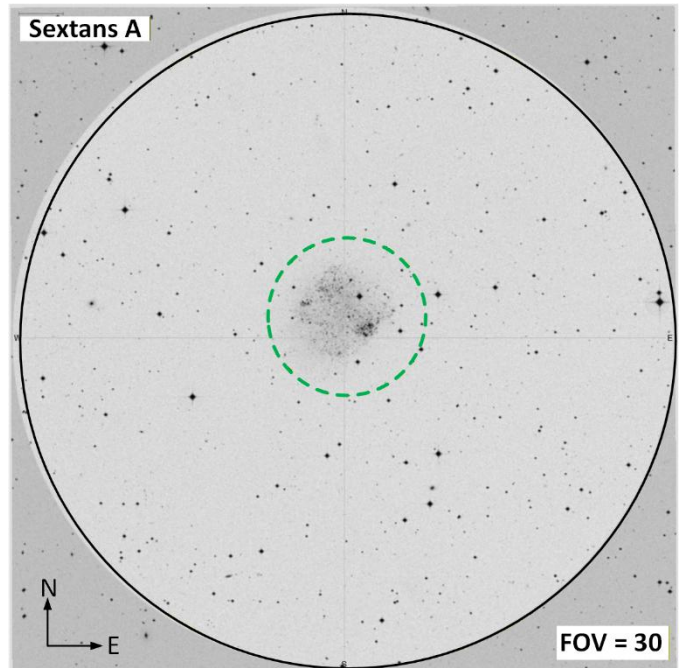
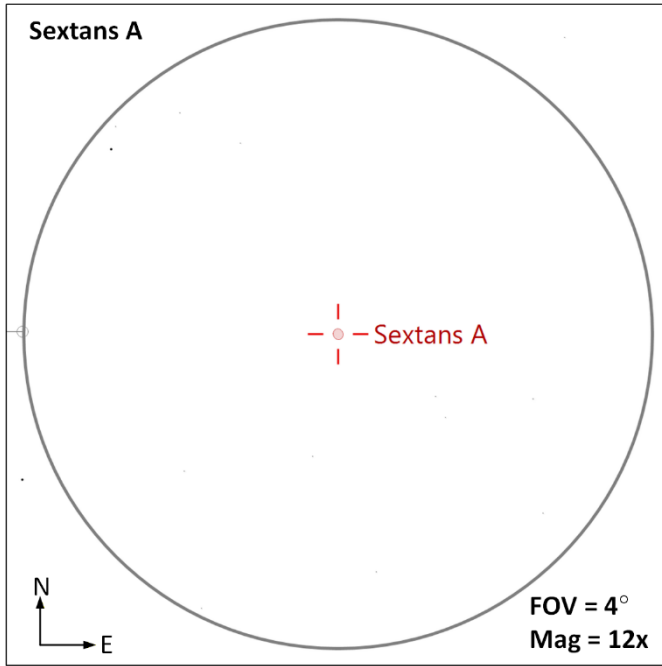
**NGC-3169** (G | M=10.3 | Size=4.2' x 2.9' | SB=21.6 | MC= Sa |)– A spiral galaxy located 75 million light years from earth. NGC 3169 is located in close physical proximity to NGC 3166, and the two have an estimated separation of around 160 kly (50 kpc).

**NGC-3165** (G | M= 13.9 | Size=1.3' x 0.7' | SB=22.4 | MC=Sm |)– A spiral galaxy located 62 million light years from earth with an estimated diameter of 23,286 light years.

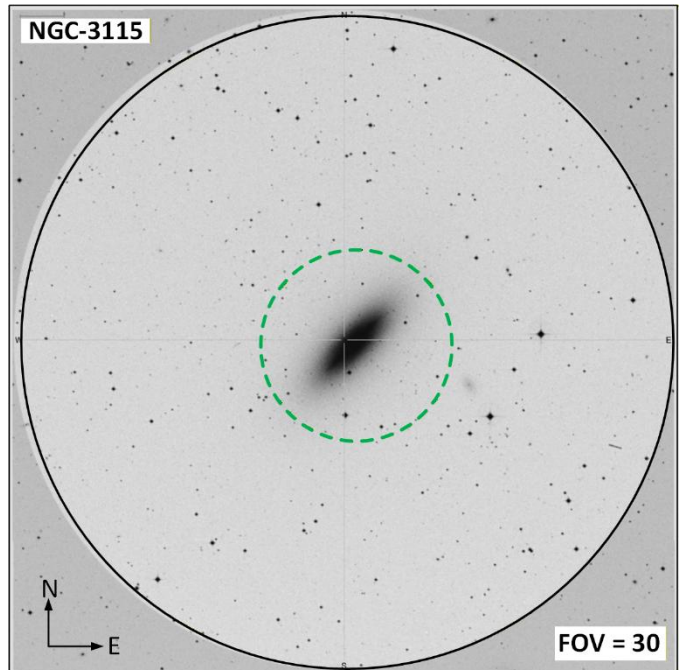
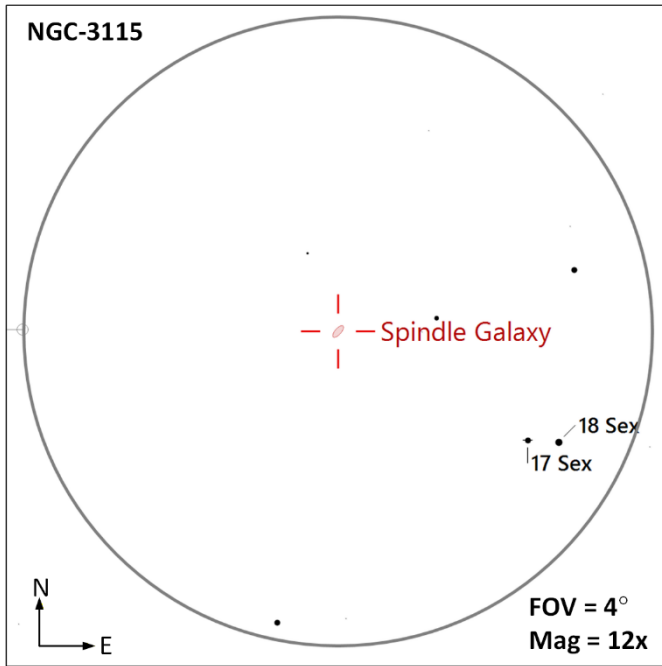


# Constellation Guide

**Sextans A** (G | M=11.9 | Size=5.9' x 4.9' | SB=24.2 | MC=IBm )– This is a small dwarf irregular galaxy that is 8,000 light years across and is located 4.6 million light years away. This galaxy has a square shape. It is believed it appears square because of a number of massive short-lived stars that went supernovae, triggered a chain reaction of star formation forming a “shell” of star formation.

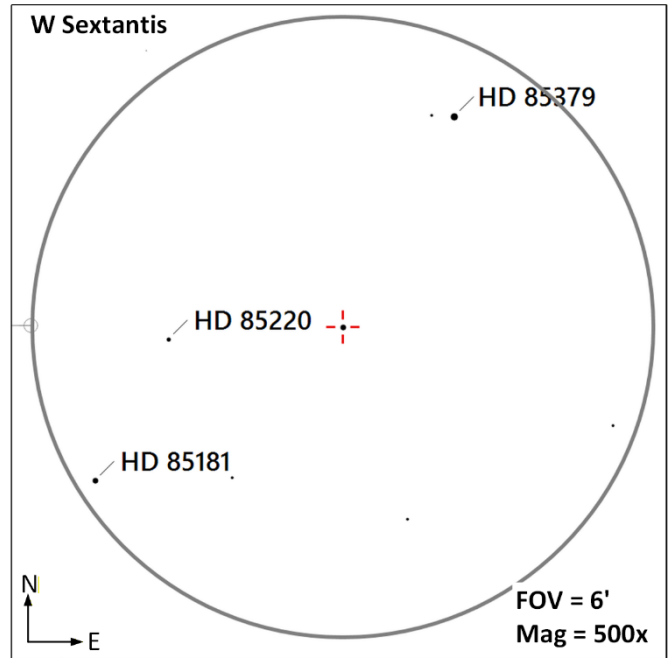
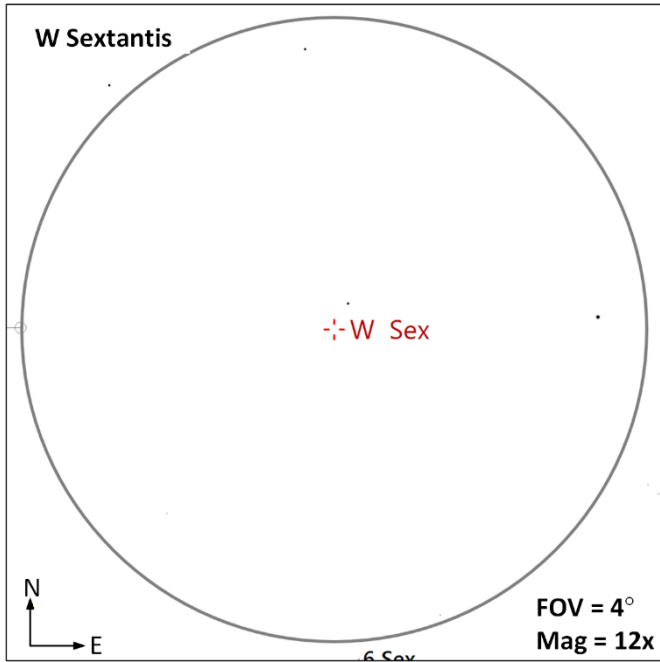


**NGC-3115** (G | M=9.9 | Size=7.2'x2.5' | SB=21.7 | MC = E-S0 )– The Spindel Galaxy (Caldwell 55) is an edge-on field (Not associated with a galaxy group) lenticular (SO) galaxy (Intermediate between elliptical and spiral galaxy) because it contains a disk and central budge of stars but no detectable spiral arms.



# Constellation Guide

**W Sextantis** (CS | Mag Range: 10.3 to 12.5 | Period=134 d | MC=C0e )– This star is located 1,456 ly away and is a red star with and energy output of 47 time the sun's luminosity.



Constellation Guide  
**Observation Log: Sextans (Sex)**

**Equipment Config A:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Config B:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Time	Config	Target	Notes

Date	Time	Config	Target	Notes

Constellation Guide  
**Observation Log: Sextans (Sex)**

**Equipment Config A:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Config B:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Time	Config	Target	Notes

Date	Time	Config	Target	Notes

# Constellation Guide

## References, Resources and Tools used to create this document

The resources listed below were utilized to generate this document.

### References

- Books
  - [Objects in the Heavens](#): Peter Birren
  - [Touring the Universe through Binoculars](#): Philip Harrington
  - [The Deep Sky](#): Philip Harrington
  - [Double and Multiple Stars and How to Observe Them](#): James Mullaney
  - Celestial Portraits: [Tom Polakis](#)
  - [Sky Spot](#) Books
    - Bright Telescopic Objects: Brent Watson
    - Select Double Stars: Brent Watson
    - Overlooked Objects: Bret Watson
- Asterisms
  - Astronomical League: [Asterisms observing program](#) List
  - Asterisms: Demeiza Ramakers
  - [Pattern Asterisms](#): John Chiravalle
  - Milwaukee Astronomical Society: [Binocular Asterisms](#)
  - Deep-Sky.co.uk: [Observing Asterisms](#) (David Ratlege)
- [Saguaro Astronomy Club](#)
  - Asterisms List
  - [110 Best of the NGC](#)
  - Red Stars List
- Online
  - [Wikipedia](#)
  - The Garden Astronomer: [Double, Multiple, and Special Star Observations List](#)
  - Sky & Telescope: [Colored Double Stars, Real and Imagined](#)
  - [In-The-Sky.org](#)
  - [Constellation-guide.com](#)

### Applications

- [SkyTools](#) 4.1 Visual Professional
- [AstroPlanner](#) Version 2.4
- [Cartes du Ciel](#) Version 4.3
- [Sky Safari](#) Pro 7
- Microsoft Office Home and business 2021 - Word
- Microsoft Visio Professional 2021
- [IrfanView](#) Version 4.72