



Evening sky in NOVEMBER 2011

The Andromeda Galaxy, approx 2.3 million light years away, is the furthest object visible to the naked eye. Use the four stars of the Square of Pegasus above the northern horizon to locate it. Draw a diagonal line from the top left star to the bottom right and carry on along that line for about half that same length to find the faint elongated blur that is the central bulge of a spiral galaxy seen almost edge on.

Bright stars in Aquila (Eagle), Piscis Austrinus (Southern Fish), Eridanus (River) and Carina (Keel) will help identify these relatively well known constellations. The Scorpion (Scorpius) is setting in the East, while Southern Cross (Crux), now upside down in the early evening sky, and Pointers (Alpha and Beta Centauri) are skimming the southern horizon.

The "evening star", planet Venus, can be seen in the early evening sky, moving from Scorpius through Ophiucus and into Sagittarius by month end. Mercury moves from Scorpius into Ophiucus and into the glare of the setting Sun by month end. Jupiter is in Aries and is visible all night.

The Moon is in the evening sky until 12 Nov and again after 26 Nov.