

April Night Sky: Galaxy Rankings and Notes

Ranking	Object	Notes
★★★★★	M51	Large spiral with connected companion NGC 5195; a must see.
★★★★	M63	"Sunflower galaxy", bright core, averted vision in larger scope shows mottling.
★★★★★	M106	Spiral w/ extended halo; excellent object.
★★★★★	NGC 5005	Mottling and extended structure.
★★★★	NGC 4244	Large elongated edge-on galaxy; faint but observable with 8" and larger scopes.
★★★★★	NGC 4490	Irregular shape w/ faint companion; should be good target in all scopes.
★★★★★	NGC 4449	Irregular w/ visible structure.
★★★★	NGC 4111	Small, bright edge-on galaxy w/ a blue and orange double HJ 2596 to the NE in the same fov.
★★★	M94	Bright, small core; doesn't display much structure in telescopes.
★★★★★	NGC 4631	Irregularly shaped edge-on w/ small faint companion. "The Whale Galaxy" Hook-shaped 4656 just SE.
★★★★★	NGC 4565	Large edge-on galaxy w/ dark lane through nucleus; a must see.
★★★★★	M64	Excellent object; averted vision in 8" scope shows dark lane thereby the name "Blackeye Galaxy".
★★★	NGC 4293	Faint, large edgewise galaxy; challenge in smaller instruments.
★★★	NGC 4450	Face on spiral; faint but displays structure in large scope.
★★★★★	M85	Excellent target w/ visible neighbor galaxy in same fov.
★★★★	M100	Low surface brightness but very large; hint of spiral structure w/ averted vision.
★★★	NGC 4216	Bright core w/ faint extended arms; nearly edgewise spiral.
★★★★★	M98	Excellent object w/ nearby star to the NE with structure visible near nucleus.
★★★	M99	Difficult to discern much structure; shows some irregularity in shape.
★★★★★	Markarian's Chain	Several galaxies in a sweeping arc beginning with M84 and M86 and sweeping NE; a must see in large binoculars and all telescopes.
★★★★★	M88	Excellent object w/ stars surrounding galaxy; easy to find, push NE at the end of Markarian's Chain.
★★★★	NGC 4654	Large, irregularly shaped spiral showing some structure.
★★★	M58	Bright streak of central bar visible, not much structure visible at EP.
★★★★★	NGC 4567 / 4568	Obvious double-lobed pair; shows interesting shape. "The Siamese Twins"
★★★★★	M60	Bright object w/ 2nd galaxy in halo of M60; M59 just W and may fit in same fov.
★★★★★	NGC 4762 / 4754	Interesting pair w/ 4762 as a bright streak situated between two bright stars.
★★★	NGC 4535	Large, faint spiral; S-shape is hard to discern.
★★★★	NGC 4526	Tilted spiral with dark lane near nucleus; between 2 bright stars in a 3 star L-shaped pattern.
★★★★	M49	Elliptical that appears interesting due to the bright star situated close to nucleus.
★★★★	M61	Large, face-on spiral; spiral is difficult to discern, but averted vision shows some irregular shape.
★★★	NGC 4517	Extended edge-on w/ bright star near nucleus; difficult in 12.5".
★★★	NGC 5426 / 5427	Faint interacting pair of spirals.
★★★	NGC 5746	Easy to find (near 109 Vir), edge-on galaxy.
★★★★	NGC 4753	Large elliptical; larger scopes may show dust lanes visible as mottling in nucleus.
★★★	NGC 4699	Bright, face-on spiral that is very tightly wound; little structure visible.
★★★★★	M104	"The Sombrero Galaxy"; bright, edge-on galaxy with dark dust lanes; a must see.