

Night Sky Photography Gear Checklist

Print this page and tick items off as you pack. From Telescope Trove.

Camera and optics

- Camera with manual mode and a sturdy tripod
- Wide, fast lens for Milky Way shots
- Remote shutter release, so you trigger the camera without touching it (prevents vibrations)

Mount and tracking

- Sturdy tripod, do not cheap out on it
- Star tracker for longer exposures

Power and storage

- At least 3 fully charged batteries per session (cold drains batteries 2 to 3 times faster)
- Memory cards with room for RAW files (a 128 GB card holds about 4,000 images)

Night comfort

- Red headlamp to protect your night vision
- Warm layers and a dew heater or dew strap for cold, humid nights

Planning and shooting

- Planning app (PhotoPills or Stellarium) and editing software (Lightroom or Sequator)
- Check the weather and Moon phase before every shoot (best nights are 3 to 5 days around new Moon)
- Focus on stars with Live View at 10x zoom, autofocus does not work at

night

- Tape the focus ring in place after you nail focus
- Shoot in RAW, not JPEG
- Take test shots at ISO 6400 to check composition, then drop to ISO 1600 to 3200 for final exposures

telescopetrove.com - The Wikipedia of Telescopes