



# THE 2024 OZSKY "ALUMNI" STAR SAFARI

SEPTEMBER 30 – OCTOBER 7, 2024

BINDA, NSW, AUSTRALIA

[WWW.OZSKY.ORG](http://WWW.OZSKY.ORG) | [INFO@OZSKY.ORG](mailto:INFO@OZSKY.ORG)

## OBSERVING AT THE OZSKY "ALUMNI" STAR SAFARI

The southern night skies at the OzSky "Alumni" Star Safari are something to behold! Not only does the hub of the Milky Way start the evening right up at the zenith (*yes, both Sagittarius and Scorpius cross through the zenith!*), but you'll also enjoy the stunning Magellanic Clouds overhead and so much more.

### AVAILABILITY OF TELESCOPES

Unlike most "regular" star parties, you're probably already aware that you don't NEED to bring your own telescope to the OzSky Star Safaris, as numerous large telescopes are provided for shared use by all attendees – hence our strict limit on the number of people permitted to register for this unique event.

The range of equipment often made available at the OzSky "Alumni" Star Safari includes a selection from:

- **Two 25" f/5 Classic Obsessions**  
- 31mm, 17mm & 9mm Naglers
- **One 20" f/5 Classic Obsession**  
- 31mm Nagler + 17mm & 8mm Ethos
- **Four 18" f/4.5 Classic Obsessions**  
- 26mm, 12mm & 7mm Naglers
- **One 18" f/4.2 Ultra-Compact Obsession**  
- 22mm Nagler + 13mm Ethos
- **One 14" f/4.5 SDM dobsonian**  
- 22mm & 12mm Nagler + 8mm Radian
- **One 25x150mm Fujinon Giant Binoculars**  
- on a motorized SkyRover StarChair with joystick control

How many, and which of these telescopes are brought out for your use depends on the number of people in attendance. However, as it is looking like OzSky "Alumni" 2024 will have yet another "Full House" of observers, there is a very good chance that many of these amazing telescopes could be available for your observing pleasure.



A small selection of the OzSky "Alumni" Star Safari telescopes

Many of the telescopes are equipped with the incredible Argo Navis Digital Telescope Computer, so finding your way around the Southern Night Skies should be a breeze.



A small selection of telescopes will also be provided without any guidance systems to enable observers to complete observing lists which require star hopping only.

Of course, we fully encourage you to bring your own small, rich-field telescope or imaging gear if that's something you're interested in, but that's entirely up to you.

The intention of the OzSky "Alumni" Star Safari is to provide an impressive range of LARGE telescopes which would otherwise be prohibitive to transport across the Pacific.

### EYEPIECE SELECTIONS AT OZSKY

Every telescope is equipped with its own dedicated set of quality TeleVue, Nagler, Ethos, Radian or Panoptic eyepieces which have been perfectly matched to each telescope to optimise views of the southern skies.

Please feel free to bring any of your own favourite eyepieces (*and/or filters*) if that's what you prefer to observe with. In the past, some attendees have even brought their own BinoViewers with full paired sets of eyepieces, for example – that part is entirely up to you.



A small selection of the OzSky "Alumni" Star Safari eyepieces

## **SHARED ACCESS TO ALL OZSKY TELESCOPES**

Folks often ask how each of the telescopes will be "allocated" during the OzSky "Alumni" Star Safari – We are pleased to advise that all official OzSky telescopes on site will be available for shared/communal use by all attendees, every night.

There may also be a small number of additional (*privately-owned*) telescopes on site which may be made available by their respective owners, however access and control of those privately-owned telescopes lies entirely with their respective owners.

At the OzSky "Alumni" Star Safari, telescopes are never allocated to specific people or groups, however, at virtually all past OzSky Star Safari trips it is usually found that folks with similar observing interests tend to group together around one or two telescopes to observe similar observing lists, often leaving some of the other telescopes unused for long periods of time.

If you would like to use a specific telescope and there is already another observer or group using it, that's not a problem at all - simply join the queue and you will be warmly welcomed.

If there are several people on one telescope with different observing lists, it is suggested that observers take turns shifting from one observer's list to the next.

If you do have a specific observing list or program which you wish to complete during your time at the OzSky Star Safari, please feel free to let the rest of the group know using this group mailing list [OzSkyAlumni2024@OzSky.org](mailto:OzSkyAlumni2024@OzSky.org). You may find that there are others in the group who also have identical or similar wish-lists.

No matter who you are, or what you want to observe, you will have ample opportunity to use all the official telescopes on site.

Everyone is strongly encouraged to roam around the observing field checking out the various telescopes, and keep in mind – you will hear frequent calls for "*Who wants to look at this 16<sup>th</sup> Magnitude galaxy in the 25-inch telescope?*"

## **OZSKY "ALUMNI" SITE CO-ORDINATES**

**-34.22°S | 149.24°E**

The co-ordinates of the OzSky Star Safari observing site are: -34.22°S, 149.24°E. [Google Maps View](#) and the street address of the observing site is Markdale Homestead, 462 Mulgowrie Road, Crooked Corner NSW 2583, Australia.

## **STRICT OZSKY DARK OUT PROVISIONS**

One of the reasons folks travel half-way across the world to observe or do astro- imaging at the OzSky "Alumni" Star Safari is to take advantage of the sheer darkness and the amazing skies we have to offer.



The night skies at OzSky "Alumni" are usually in the range of SQM 21.4–21.9 mag/arcsec<sup>2</sup> (Bortle 1–3) and it is not unusual to see shadows being cast by the Milky Way itself.

Each of the volunteers at the OzSky "Alumni" Star Safari feel a duty of care to ensure that the best possible experience can be enjoyed by all OzSky guests, and as such we implement strict Dark Out provisions requiring that only **DIM, RED** light sources may be used on or around the observing field between 7:00pm and 5:00am.

Any light sources which are not "astronomy friendly" (*such as too bright, or white light etc*), must be switched off during official dark out hours, so as not to affect the enjoyment, dark adaption, or photographic exposures of other folks at OzSky "Alumni".

House and Room lights must also remain off during this period (*unless curtains are fully drawn, and windows shielded*) which is particularly important to note for any non-observers in the group.

Since our small group usually consists almost entirely of highly experienced deep sky observers, I'm confident that this policy will be very much self-regulated during the week.

**Note:** Remember to pack your red LED flashlight for use while observing, but please do not bring a "head-light" (even if it is red) as these are typically way too bright for serious observing and generally cause more damage to dark adaption than good.

Also leave at home any flashlight which can accidentally be switched to white light – these are strictly prohibited on the observing field and may be confiscated immediately.

## **DIGITAL OBSERVING AIDS**

Folks often raise concerns about modern devices such as kindles, smartphones, tablets, laptops, etc being used on the main observing field or around the imaging field.

Feel free to bring your favourite digital devices, but please remember they must not interfere with any other observer or imager during official Dark Out hours.

Without going into details of appropriate shielding options for laptops, tablets, smart-watches and other light emitting devices, common sense should, of course, prevail.



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## EYE CANDY, OBSERVING LISTS & OTHER RESOURCES

While this list is by no means exhaustive, it will hopefully act as a starting point to help you get your own personal observing lists started, or perhaps provide some inspiration to get yours refined if you've already started one.

### GALAXIES, GALAXIES AND MORE GALAXIES

String of Pearls	NGC 55
Cartwheel Galaxy	ESO 350-40
Milkweed Seed Galaxy	NGC 247
Silver Coin Galaxy	NGC 253
Small Magellanic Cloud	NGC 292 (SMC)
Large Magellanic Cloud	LMC
Dorado Seyfert Galaxy	NGC 1566
Sculptor Dwarf Galaxy	ESO 351-30
Fornax Barred Spiral	NGC 1365
Fornax Dwarf Galaxy	ESO 356-04
Barnard's Galaxy	NGC 6822
Grus Quartet of galaxies	NGC 7582
Klemora 4 (Hickson 90)	HCG 90

### PLANETARY & BRIGHT NEBULAE

Pac Man or Skull Nebula	NGC 246
Cleopatra's Eye	NGC 1535
Little Gem	NGC 6818
Saturn Nebula	NGC 7009
Helix Nebula	NGC 7293
R Coronae Australia Nebula	NGC 6729
Tarantula Nebula	NGC 2070

### GLOBULAR CLUSTERS

47 Tucanae	NGC 104
Tucana Spare Globular	NGC 362
Reticulum Dwarf	ESO 118-31
Pavo Globular (The Starfish)	NGC 6752

### MULTIPLE STARS

Beta Tucanae	HR 126
Mesarthim (Gamma Aries)	HR 545
Acamar (Theta Eridanus)	HR 897
h 3670	HR 1475
Iota Pictoris	Dunlop 18
Gamma Corona Australis	HR 7226
Beta Sagittarii	Dunlop 226
Theta Indi	HR 8140
pi-1 Gru	HR 8521
Zeta Aquarii	HR 8558
Beta Piscis Austrini	Dunlop 240

### CARBON STARS AND VARIABLE STARS

R Sculptoris	HR 423
TW Horologium	HR 977
R Doradus	HR 1492
Hind's Crimson Star (R Leporis)	HR 1607
V Aquila	HR 7220
T Indus	HR 8145
Y Pavo	HR 8156
Mira (Omicron Ceti)	HR 681

### CHALLENGE OBJECTS

- AM1 in Horologium – one of the most distant Globular Clusters in the Milky Way system. One of the Ultimate Globular Challenges
- The Aurora Australis – *Yes, The Southern Lights. Not at all likely to see this, but we have seen it from "worse" latitudes in the past!*



## **ONLINE OZSKY RESOURCES**

The OzSky Star Safari website contains several very useful observing resources which you might like to review prior to your trip, including:

- [The Bambury 600 List](#)
- [The Small Magellanic Cloud \(SMC\)](#)
- [The Local Group of Galaxies](#)
- [Treasures of the SMC](#)

Further information and additional observing lists can also be found on the OzSky Star Safari website at <https://www.OzSky.org> under the "[Resources](#)" link, however in the interim, hopefully this email will serve to whet your appetite for what else there might be to discover in the Southern Night Skies at the OzSky "Alumni" Star Safari.

As mentioned previously, this list is just a very small sample of some of the Southern Skies Eye Candy objects and will hopefully inspire you to get some ideas together for your OzSky "Alumni" Star Safari southern skies observing lists.



47 Tucanae (NGC 104) in Tucana



Hickson 90 Galaxy Cluster  
in Piscis Austrinus



Seyfert Galaxy (NGC 1566)  
in Dorado



Pacman/Skull Nebula (NGC 246)  
in Cetus



R Sculptoris (HR 423)  
in Sculptor



The Tarantula Nebula (NGC 2070) in Dorado