

# Kitt Peak Nightly Observing Program

## Splendors of the Universe on YOUR Night!

Many pictures are links to larger versions.

Click here for the ["Best images of the OTOP" Gallery](#) and more information.

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**Iota (ι) Cancri** is a binary star in the constellation Cancer, the crab. The brighter star is a pale yellow giant, and the fainter star is smaller and bluish-white. This pair is about 300 light-years away and the stars are almost 3000 astronomical units apart.

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**M13: The "Great Globular Cluster in Hercules"** was discovered by Edmund "Comet" Halley in 1714. It is 22,000 lightyears away, and light would need over a century to traverse its diameter.

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**Jupiter** is the largest planet in the Solar System, a “gas giant” 11 Earth-diameters across. Its atmosphere contains the Great Red Spot, a long-lived storm 2-3 times the size of the Earth. The 4 large Galilean satellites and at least 63 smaller moons orbit Jupiter.

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**Saturn**, the second-largest planet in the Solar System, is known for its showy but thin rings made of ice chunks as small as dust and as large as buildings. Its largest moon, Titan, has an atmosphere and hydrocarbon lakes; at least 61 smaller moons orbit Saturn.

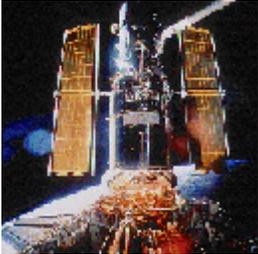
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**M57: The Ring Nebula.** This remnant of a dead star looks exactly as it's name says - a ring or doughnut shape



cloud of gas. The nebula is about 2.6 lightyears across and lies about 2,300 lightyears away.

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Satellites: Human technology! There are almost 500 of these in Low Earth Orbit (we can't see the higher ones). We see these little "moving stars" because they reflect sunlight.

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Alexandria Bauccho Your Telescope Operator and Guide. Thank you for joining me this evening! See you soon!!

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The web page for the program in which you just participated is at [Nightly Observing Program](#). Most of the above images were taken as part of the Overnight Telescope Observing Program. For more information on this unique experience please visit [Overnight Telescope Observing Program](#).

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