

# 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.

---



M8: The "Lagoon Nebula." A huge cloud of gas and dust beside an open cluster of stars (NGC 6530). The Lagoon is a stellar nursery, 4,100 lightyears away, towards the galactic core.

---



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.

---



**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.

---



**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.

---

The same side of the **Moon** always faces Earth because the lunar periods of rotation and revolution are the same. The surface of the moon is covered with impact craters



and lava-filled basins. The Moon is about a fourth of Earth's diameter and is about 30 Earth-diameters away.

---



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.

---

Alexandria Bauccho

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

---

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](#).

Copyright © 2015 Kitt Peak Visitor Center