

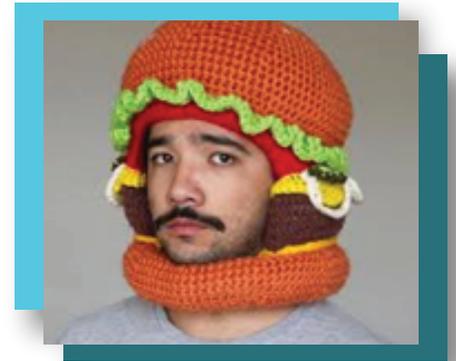
Winter Stargazing

Weather shouldn't keep you cooped up. If you're properly outfitted, winter's a great time for the stars!

January in New England might be frigid, but winter stargazing has a lot of perks! Cold air can't hold as much moisture as warm, so we often get clear nights. Plus, when the sun sets early, you can see all kinds of celestial objects even before dinnertime.

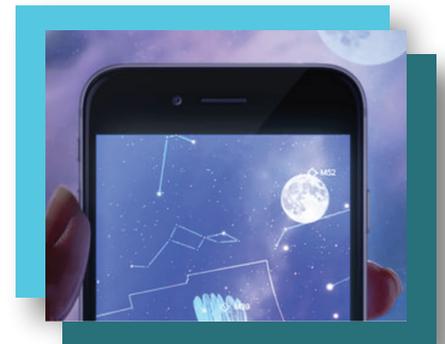
Here are some tips for how to stay warm AND how to take advantage of what the winter sky has to offer:

Dress in layers. This advice isn't novel, but it is wise. You'll want to wrap every part of your body in several layers; this includes thick wool socks, waterproof boots, gloves, and a big goofy hat. C'mon, it's dark; nobody will see you.



Grab the binoculars. You'd be surprised what you can see with just a simple pair of binoculars. For example, from January 18–22, Uranus and Mars will seem to pass by each other between the constellations Aries and Pisces. A pair of 7x50 binoculars will turn their fuzzy blur into focus. Neptune, too, will be easy to spot with binoculars for most of the month.

Use the right tools. There are many stargazing apps that will help make sense of the night sky. Here are a few of our favorites:



- SkyView: <https://www.terminaleleven.com/skyview/iphone/> (also comes in a free "lite" version). Just point your phone at the sky, and it starts identifying constellations and planets.
- NASA: <https://www.nasa.gov/nasaapp> It's hard to do better than this one for educational content and live astronomy event coverage.
- Light Pollution Map–Dark Sky: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/light-pollution-map-dark-sky/id1200379779> will help you find places to stargaze. And the International Dark Sky Association (<https://www.darksky.org/>) has lots of ways you can fight light pollution



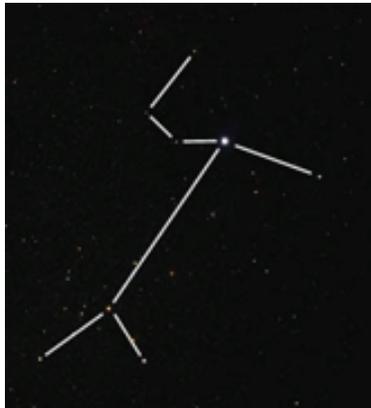
Winter Sky Scavenger Hunt

Below are some of the most iconic features of the winter sky. So grab this list (and some hot chocolate) and head to a dark location!

Orion



Canis Major



Crescent Moon



Taurus



**Shooting Star
(Meteor)**



Crab Nebula



Cassiopeia



Big Dipper



A planet

