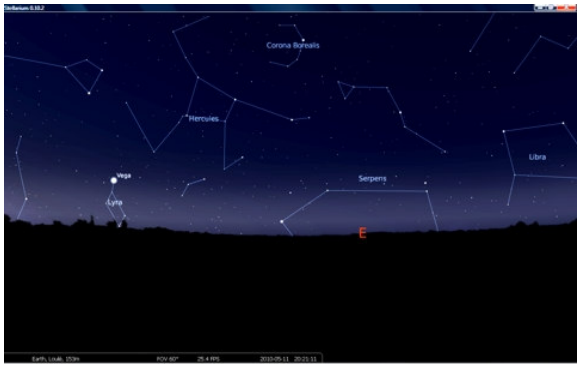
Hercules constellation and M13

If you want to see the Hercules constellation look above the star Vega that is the brightest star of the Eastern sky after dark in the beginning of the night.



Screenshot of eastern view of the sky after sunset created with Stellarium.
(Click on the image to see a bigger image)

Hercules is a constellation that is named after Hercules, the Roman mythological hero adapted from the Greek hero Heracles. Hercules was one of the 48 constellations listed by the 2nd century astronomer Ptolemy, and it remains one of the 88 modern constellations today. It is the fifth largest of the modern constellations.

Screenshot of the mythological view of the same area of the sky as the previous image created with Stellarium.

A closer view to the constellation can help you identify the most famous deep-sky object within this constellation. It's a globular star cluster known as M13, because it was the 13th object of Charles Messier's Catalogue.

M13 (Great Cluster in Hercules) a globular cluster in the Hercules constellation.

After the Orion Nebula (M42), that is best seen in the winter, and the Andromeda Galaxy (M31), that is best seen at the end of the summer, the Hercules cluster is the easiest deep-sky object to scope and can be seen with binoculars.

Try to find it and use it to try to make your first pictures with a telescope. If you have a nice one send it to us and we will be pleased to publish it.

Clear skies.