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Andromeda Galaxy

Coordinates:  00^h 42^m 44.3^s, +41° 16′ 10″

The **Andromeda Galaxy** (/ænˈdrɒmɪdə/), also known as **Messier 31**, **M31**, or **NGC 224**, is a spiral galaxy approximately 780 kiloparsecs (2.5 million light-years) from Earth, and the nearest major galaxy to the Milky Way.^[4] Its name stems from the area of the sky in which it appears, the constellation of Andromeda.

The 2006 observations by the Spitzer Space Telescope revealed that the Andromeda Galaxy contains approximately one trillion stars,^[10] more than twice the number of the Milky Way's estimated 200 to 400 billion stars.^[13] The Andromeda Galaxy's mass is estimated to be around 1.76 times that of the Milky Way Galaxy ($\sim 0.8\text{--}1.5 \times 10^{12}$ solar masses ^{[9][10]} vs the Milky Way's 8.5×10^{11} solar masses), though a 2018 study found that the Andromeda Galaxy's mass is roughly the same as the Milky Way's.^[9] The Andromeda Galaxy, spanning approximately 220,000 light-years, is the largest galaxy in our Local Group, which is also home to the Triangulum Galaxy and other minor galaxies.

The Milky Way and Andromeda galaxies are expected to collide in ~4.5 billion years, merging to form a giant elliptical galaxy^[14] or a large disc

Andromeda Galaxy



The Andromeda Galaxy with satellite galaxies M32 (center left above the galactic nucleus) and M110 (center left below the galaxy)

Observation data (J2000 epoch)	
Pronunciation	/ænˈdrɒmɪdə/
Constellation	Andromeda
Right ascension	00 ^h 42 ^m 44.3 ^s ^[1]