

# Astrocamp

---

## Pinwheel Galaxy

The ***Pinwheel Galaxy***, also known as Messier 101, is a spiral galaxy distanced 21 million light-years away from Earth in the constellation Ursa Major, or the Big Dipper. It was discovered by Pierre Méchain on March 27, 1781, who described it as a "nebula, very obscure and pretty large. A ***nebula*** is a cloud of gas and dust in outer space. On February 28, 2006, NASA and the European Space Agency released a very detailed image of the Pinwheel Galaxy, which was the largest and most detailed image of a galaxy by Hubble Space Telescope at the time.



