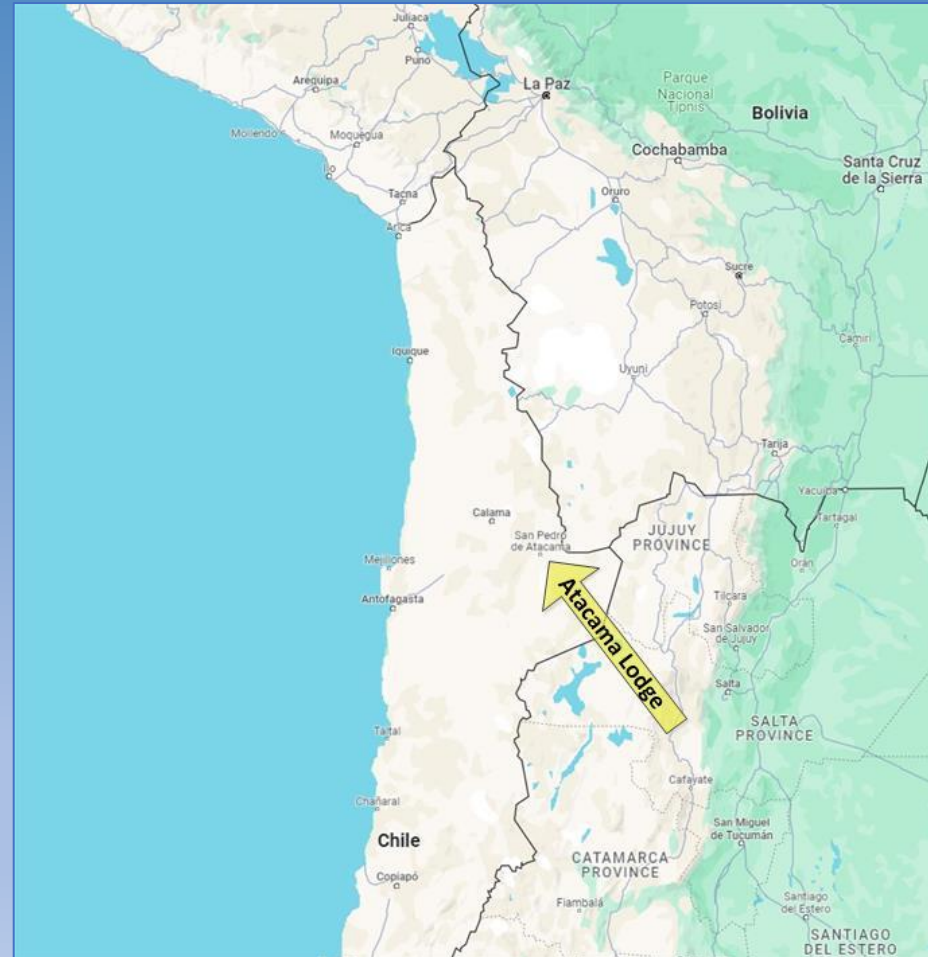


# Southern Sky Excursion

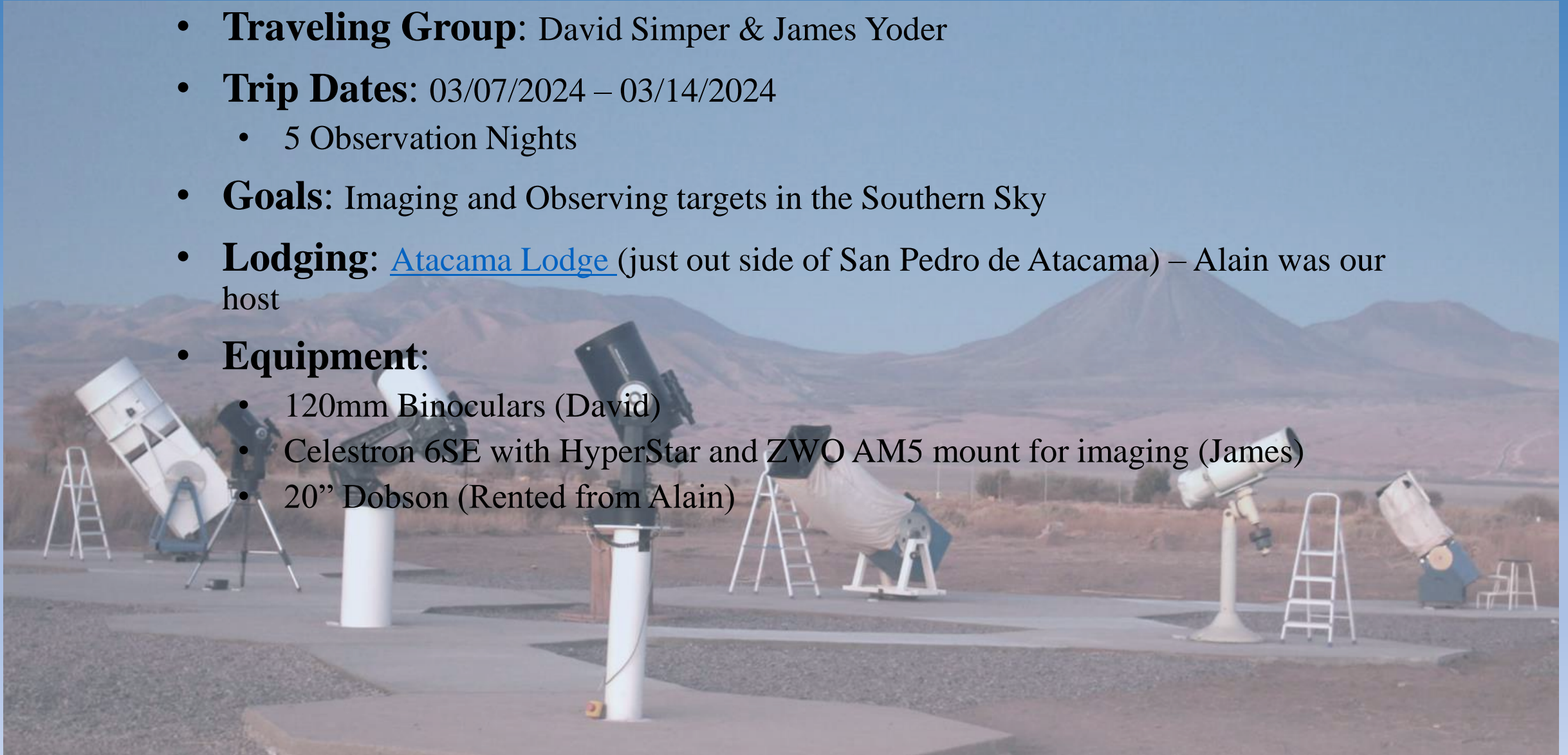
Five nights in the Atacama Desert in Chile



<https://tinyurl.com/Yoder-Chile2024>

# Logistics

- **Traveling Group:** David Simper & James Yoder
- **Trip Dates:** 03/07/2024 – 03/14/2024
  - 5 Observation Nights
- **Goals:** Imaging and Observing targets in the Southern Sky
- **Lodging:** [Atacama Lodge](#) (just out side of San Pedro de Atacama) – Alain was our host
- **Equipment:**
  - 120mm Binoculars (David)
  - Celestron 6SE with HyperStar and ZWO AM5 mount for imaging (James)
  - 20” Dobson (Rented from Alain)



# The Layout

Observation site was just outside of our lodging



# The Targets

## Observation High Priority Targets

- **Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC)**: Full of many objects
- **Omega Centauri (NGC-5139)**: Best globular cluster in the sky
- **Tarantula Nebula (NGC-2070)**: Nebula
- **Centaurus A (NGC-5128)**: Peculiar Galaxy with Dark Lane
- **Eta Carinae Nebula (NGC-3372)**: Bright Nebula

## Imaging Targets

- **Celestron C6SE with HyperStar (3 Nights, 3 targets)**
  - [Large Magellanic Cloud \(LMC\)](#) – 262 minutes
  - [Eta Carinae Nebula \(NGC-3372\)](#) – 236 minutes
  - [Rim Nebula \(NGC-6188\)](#) – 290 minutes
- **Celestron C6SE Primary Focus (1 Night, 3 targets)**
  - [Great Barred Spiral Galaxy \(NGC-1365\)](#) – 20 minutes
  - [Centaurus A \(NGC-5128\)](#) – 34 minutes
  - [Omega Centauri \(NGC-5139\)](#) – 85 minutes

# Great Barred Spiral Galaxy (NGC-1365)



Great Barred Spiral Galaxy (NGC-1365)

Constellation: Fornax

| RA = 03h 33m 59.2s DEC = -36deg 10' 09.9" | Size = 50.4 x 33.6 arcmin | Orientation: 144.6deg E of N | Pixel scale = 0.50 arsec/pixel | FL=1540mm |

James Yoder | Date(s) 2024.03.11 | Location: Atacama Lodge, Chile |

Config: | C-6SE | Primary Focus | ZWO-6200MC |

Exposure Info: | 10 f/8@2min | Gain: 100 |

# Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC)



Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC)

Constellation: Dorado

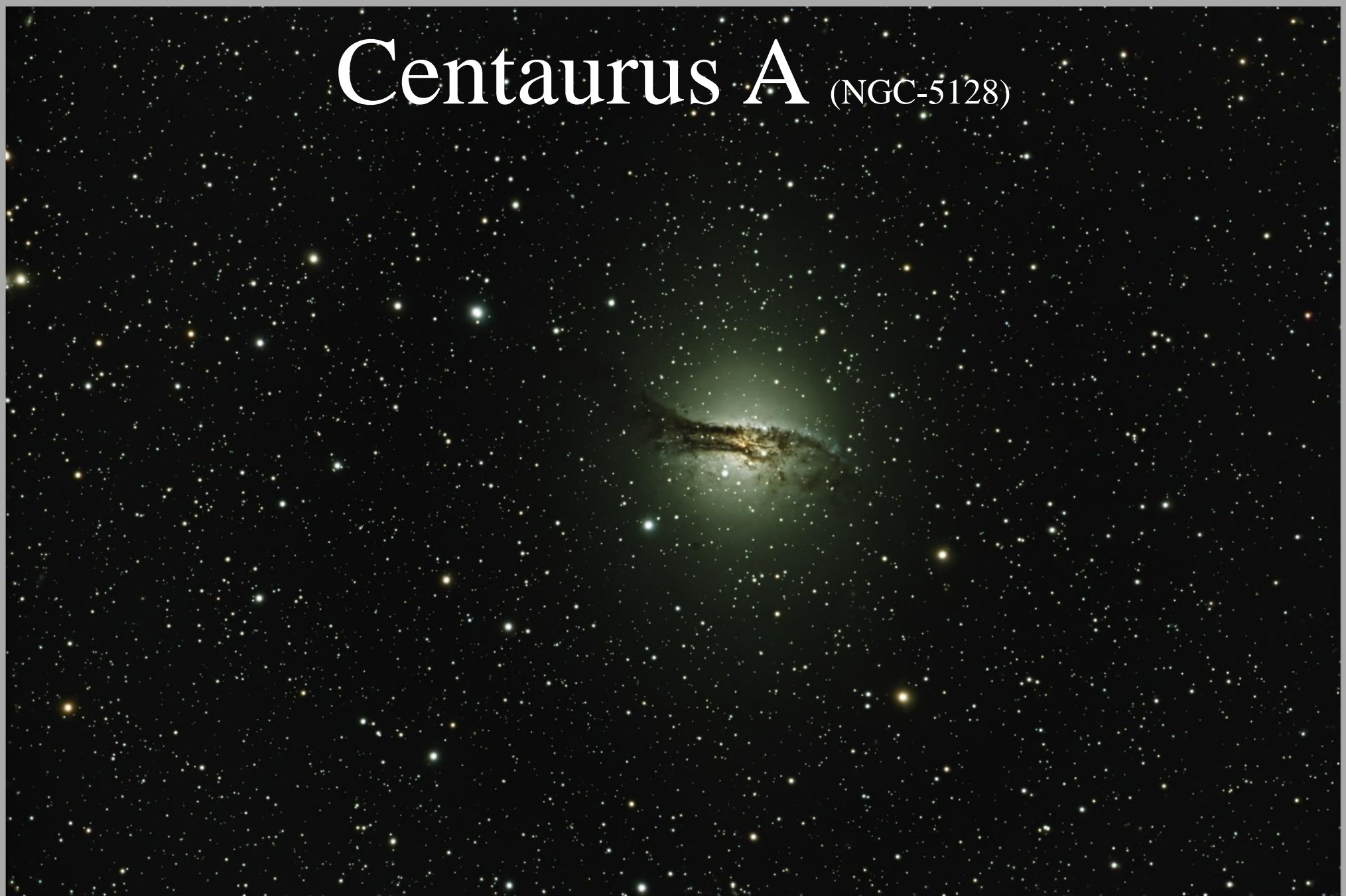
| RA = 05h 23m 04.1s DEC = -69deg 42' 14.3" | Size = 4.05 x 2.7 deg | Orientation: 158deg E of N | Pixel scale = 2.52 arsec/pixel | FL=300mm |

James Yoder | Date(s) 2024.03.08, 09, 10 | Location: Atacama Lodge, Chile |

Config: | C-6SE | HyperStar V4 | Multi Filters | ZWO 6200MC |

Exposure Info: | 131 frms@2min | Gain: 100 |

# Centaurus A (NGC-5128)



Centaurus A (NGC-5128)

Constellation: Centaurus

| RA = 13h 25m 38.4s DEC = -43deg 02' 45.6" | Size = 47.9 x 31.9 arcmin | Orientation: 323.7deg E of N | Pixel scale = 0.50 arsec/pixel | FL=1540mm |

James Yoder | Date(s) 2024.03.11 | Location: Atacama Lodge, Chile |

Config: | C-6SE | Primary Focus | ZWO-6200MC |

Exposure Info: | 17 frms@2min | Gain: 100 |

# Rim Nebula (NGC-6188)



Rim Nebula (NGC-6188)

Constellation: Ara

| RA = 16h 39m 58.7s DEC = -48deg 39' 27.7" | Size = 4.21 x 2.81 deg | Orientation: 339deg E of N | Pixel scale = 2.53 arsec/pixel | FL=300mm |

James Yoder | Date(s) 2024.03.08, 09, 10 | Location: Atacama Lodge, Chile |

Config: | C-6SE | HyperStar V4 | Multi Filters | ZWO 6200MC |

Exposure Info: | 145 fms@2min | Gain: 100 |

# Omega Centauri (NGC-5139)



Omega Centauri (NGC-5139)

Constellation: Centaurus

RA = 13h 26m 43.5s DEC = -47deg 29' 55.4" | Size = 47.8 x 31.9 arcmin | Orientation: 324.0deg E of N | Pixel scale = 0.50 arsec/pixel | FL=1540mm |

James Yoder | Date(s) 2024.03.11 | Location: Atacama Lodge, Chile |

Config: | C-6SE | Primary Focus | ZWO-6200MC |

Exposure Info: | 85 frms@1min | Gain: 100 |

# Eta Carinae Nebula (NGC-3372)



Eta Carinae Nebula (NGC-3372)

Constellation: Carina

| RA = 10h 45m 05.4s DEC = -59deg 50' 46.6" | Size = 4.2 x 2.8 deg | Orientation: 338deg E of N | Pixel scale = 2.52 arsec/pixel | FL=300mm |

James Yoder | Date(s) 2024.03.08, 09, 10 | Location: Atacama Lodge, Chile |

Config: | C-6SE | HyperStar V4 | Multi Filters | ZWO 6200MC |

Exposure Info: | 118 frms@2min | Gain: 100 |

# Conclusions

- There are some objects in the southern sky that have no comparison to objects in the northern sky
- Aperture really can make a huge difference on a few select objects



# Pointers

- Understand airline restrictions on batteries and weight limits
- Take fragile objects as carry on
- Wear a mask on the flights
- Locals don't speak English
- Aperture can really make a difference on some select objects
- Plan your target list in advance
- Goto Mounts, Digital Setting Circles or **StarSense Explorer** can really help optimize your viewing
- Take you time to get familiar with the Southern Sky