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HIP 67304

HIP 67304

A light for our story



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A story among the stars

Celestial Library edition



*Every light holds a story. These pages
follow its journey, from the heart of the
star to the sky we share.*

The sky, page by page

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HIP 67304

One light among many

Some nights begin when we stop hurrying. The day withdraws, our eyes learn the darkness and, little by little, the stars appear. Among them is HIP 67304, low among the lights of Centaurus. To look for it is to begin learning a particular place in the vastness.

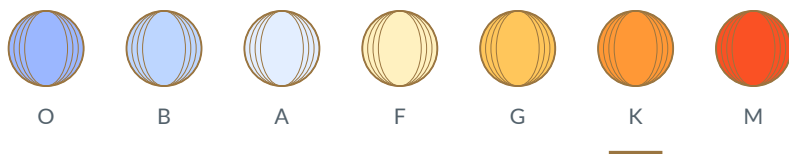
Across the centuries, people have drawn different shapes among the same lights. A chart can hold one moment's way of seeing; a later reader may return to its lines and find a point again. The sky remains immense, yet attention gives it a path.

The colour of its fire

The light of HIP 67304 has a character of its own. The K family keeps the colour of an ember seen at the end of an evening. Its surfaces are cooler than the Sun's, though still extraordinarily hot. That amber tint suggests a gathered light, a warmth that seems to ask us to stay a little longer.

To the unaided eye, a stellar colour can be little more than a whisper. The atmosphere makes it tremble and our eyes receive it in their own way. Beyond that point we can imagine a living surface of hot matter: the visible beauty of processes working on a scale far greater than ours.

SEVEN FAMILIES OF LIGHT



Light keeps the colours of its origin.

The journey ending here

The light of HIP 67304 crosses approximately 454.3 light-years to reach us. The brightness we receive has therefore spent about 454.3 years on its way. Distance becomes time: looking at this star means meeting light that began travelling before this moment. When it set out, the Sun and its planets already shared a history billions of years old. On their scale, this journey is barely a breath.

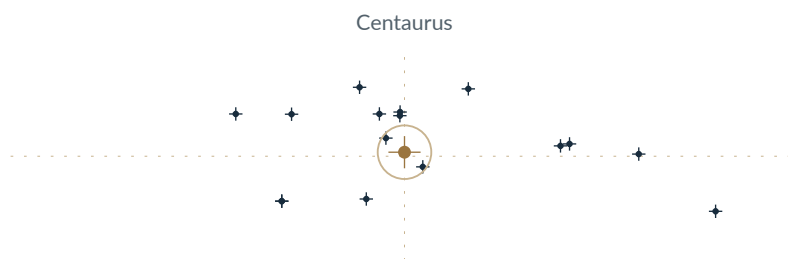
Its light has crossed the time of several generations. We can imagine hands writing letters, lit windows and voices that now live only in other voices. Through all that passing on, the brightness kept travelling; tonight it reaches us.



A landscape for imagination

HIP 67304 lies in the region of the Centaur. The Centaur brings different natures into one image. We can read in it the possibility that strength and gentleness might share a path beneath the stars.

Figures in the sky are a human way of approaching immensity. In our gaze they join lights that may lie at very different distances. Imagination stretches the thread; the stars provide the brightness. A single landscape can therefore keep old images while receiving a story that begins tonight.



Its light, among other lights of the constellation.

A point found again in an old sky

In a chart tradition described in the *Xin yixiang fa yao* of 1094, the sky was arranged into figures that helped give its many lights a shape. Nearly a millennium later, Hisaaki Shinkai reconstructed those chart constellations using the Hipparcos catalogue. In his table, the tenth listed star of Kùlóu is matched to HIP 67304, at a rounded position of 206.91 degrees right ascension and -50.32 degrees declination. SIMBAD connects that modern catalogue number with HD 119971. The old chart does not call the star by this modern number; the link is a present-day identification, carefully drawn between two maps of the sky. Across such a distance in time, a coordinate becomes a small bridge: it lets a faint point be found again among the lights of Centaurus.

We can imagine the word passing from hand to hand while the star remained beyond every page. Languages changed; the desire to remember a light endured. Tonight that long conversation reaches our gaze. A name, spoken softly, can gather the breadth of the sky into something intimate: a place to return, and a reason to tell someone else where to look.

A life opening out

The word giant speaks of a star that has moved beyond the appearance of its first long stage. Its envelope has expanded and the interior has changed the way it supports itself. We can imagine a life opening its rooms, a light taking up more space while writing a different chapter of its story.

To approach HIP 67304, we can let that scale widen our imagination. A stellar age is unlike a birthday: it speaks of changing matter, of energy finding a way out, of a balance sustained and transformed. Tonight's light is one page of that time, and we happen to be here to receive it.

Measuring with two glances

To begin measuring a stellar distance, Earth offers us a movement. We observe from one side of its orbit and look again about six months later from the other. A nearby star seems to shift slightly against more distant ones. That small change of perspective is called parallax.

We can feel the principle by looking at a finger with one eye and then the other. What fits between two glances at home requires our planet's journey in the sky. There is something beautiful in that patience: to learn how far a light is from us, we first learned to look from somewhere else.



Nothing stands still

Although it seems still, HIP 67304 belongs to a moving sky. Stars travel through the galaxy and our own home moves with the Sun. The distances are so great that many of these changes need years of observation to become visible. The serenity we see is really keeping a journey.

We can imagine every night as a meeting between travellers. We arrive with one more day of memories; the star arrives with its light and its path. The meeting seems to repeat, yet it is never quite the same. Perhaps that is why looking again can be such a simple way to celebrate shared time.

The night of finding it

We can begin simply: look into a starry sky and let our eyes grow used to darkness. Centaurus lies low in the southern sky; a clear horizon helps. A wide field is a gentle start if a telescope joins the evening. A 114 mm Newtonian with a 500 mm focal length gives 20× with a 25 mm eyepiece. HIP 67304 remains a point of light. Finding it can be its own quiet reward.

If a telescope joins the evening, a wide field is a gentle beginning. As a reference, a 114 mm Newtonian with a 500 mm focal length gives 20× with a 25 mm eyepiece. The star remains a point of light; the instrument gathers more of its brightness. The best memory may be the moment we leave the eyepiece and say: there it is.

Somewhere to return

We can close this booklet and let the star become a small light in an enormous night again. Something has changed: we have followed its coordinates between a present-day catalogue and a much older chart, while keeping clear where reconstruction ends and certainty begins.

There will be clear nights and others when clouds keep the sky. Not every night will allow observing, but the map can wait. When the Centaur returns above the horizon, HIP 67304 will be there among the lights, ready to be found again.

The traces of this story

ESA Hipparcos / VizieR

https://vizier.cds.unistra.fr/viz-bin/VizieR-5?-source=I/239/hip_main&HIP=67304

NASA · Our Sun

<https://science.nasa.gov/sun/facts/>

IAU · Constellations and their names

<https://iauarchive.eso.org/public/themes/constellations/>

Celestron · Choosing eyepieces

<https://www.celestron.com/blogs/knowledgebase/how-to-determine-which-eyepieces-to-use-with-your-telescope>

SIMBAD / CDS · HIP 67304 = HD 119971 = HR 5176

cross-identifications

<https://simbad.cds.unistra.fr/simbad/sim-id?Ident=HD+119971>

Original ISDORA prose and illustrations. Images are artistic evocations or diagrams, not to scale. Distances are approximate. Constellation figures include contemporary literary readings.

To keep discovering

NASA · The lives of stars

<https://science.nasa.gov/universe/stars/>

NASA · What is a light-year?

<https://science.nasa.gov/exoplanets/what-is-a-light-year/>

ESA · Measuring stellar distances by parallax

https://www.esa.int/ESA_Multimedia/Images/2013/06/Measuring_stellar_distances_by_parallax

Hisaaki Shinkai (2026) · “Shin Gishou Houyou” · Appendix A.3, Table A.3, chart item 86 / Kùlóu / star 10

https://www.oit.ac.jp/labs/is/system/shinkai/Papers/20251119_Gishou_Houyou.pdf

ESA Hipparcos / VizieR · HIP 67304 catalogue row

https://vizier.cds.unistra.fr/viz-bin/asu-tsv?-source=I/239/hip_main&HIP=67304



May there always be a night
to look again.



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A STORY OF LIGHT