

The North Star Polaris Is Getting Brighter

News

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This long-exposure photo (left) shows how the North Star, Polaris, stays fixed in the night sky as other stars appear to move during the night due to Earth's rotation. At right, a close-up of the multi-star Polaris system. (Image credit: Left image: M. Menefee; Right: N. Carboni; Assembly: D. Majaess)

The North Star has remained an eternal reassurance for northern travelers over the centuries. But recent and historical research reveals that the ever-constant star is actually changing.

After dimming for the last few decades, the [North Star](#) is beginning to shine brightly again. And over the last two centuries, the brightening has become rather dramatic. "It was unexpected to find," Scott Engle of Villanova University in Pennsylvania told SPACE.com. Engle investigated the fluctuations of the star over the course of several years, combing through historical records and even turning the gaze of the famed Hubble Space Telescope onto the star. [[Top 10 Star Mysteries](#)]