



PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST - PLANNING

Download, print off a copy and tick-off each activity as you prepare for your next observation / imaging session

24 HOURS BEFORE DEPARTURE

- ☐ Check the latest weather forecast.
- ☐ Review the astronomy forecast.
- ☐ Confirm moonrise and moonset times.
- ☐ Calculate your departure time.
- ☐ Finalise your observing list.

DEPARTURE TIMELINE

MILESTONE	TIME
Astronomical darkness begins	
Telescope acclimatized & ready to observe	
Polar alignment complete	
Equipment assembled	
Arrive at observing site	
Drive time (... minutes)	
Leave home	

EQUIPMENT PREPARATION

- ☐ Inspect optics.
- ☐ Clean optics if necessary.
- ☐ Charge all batteries / power stations.
- ☐ Charge phone, tablet and laptop.
- ☐ Check cameras and available memory (astrophotography only).
- ☐ Confirm all equipment is functioning correctly.