SKIES & SCOPES

# Smart Telescopes

## Your Quick Guide to Choosing the Right Model for You




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## What are Smart Telescopes?

**Smart Telescopes** are devices that contain the telescope, camera and mount all in one package that you control via smartphone app.

They are relatively new to the astronomy market, having first emerged just a few years ago.

They take advantage of the power of our smartphones and massively simplify the process of being able to capture deep sky astrophotography images.

## Available Models

There are 14 great smart telescopes on the market right now – each with their pros and cons.

I've had my hands on many of these over the last couple of years and I like to break them down into four categories according to budget:

Right now there are four very good **budget** smart telescopes ($419-$699):

- **Dwarf Mini** – Most affordable and lightweight
- **Seestar S30 Plus** – New in November 2026. Budget rival to the Dwarf Mini but comes with tripod and carry case included.
- **Dwarflab Dwarf 3** – Highly portable with very high resolution camera
- **Seestar S30 Pro** – Small and light, with a wide-angle camera for landscape imaging

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Seestar S50 Pro, Dwarf 3, and Seestar S30 Pro

Then two new models for 2026 that I call Premium Budget ($999-$1,599):

- **Seestar S50 Pro** - Released in August 2026. Premium specs at a less-than premium price.
- **Dwarflab Draco** - Released in September 2026. Ultra-high spec at mid-range price.

There are then four good **mid-range/premium** options ($2,490 to $2,990):

- **Unistellar Odyssey** – great ease-of-use
- **Unistellar Equinox 2** – higher specs but harder to use
- **Vaonis Vespera 3** – great value for a mid-range option
- **Vaonis Vespera Pro 2** – great ease-of-use and the highest resolution camera of any model

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And finally four **ultra-premium** models ($4,299 to $6,990):

- **Unistellar Odyssey Pro** – super easy to use and has an eyepiece
- **Unistellar Evscope 2** – higher specs and an eyepiece but harder to use
- **Celestron Origin Mk II** – the best all-round imaging credentials but big and heavy
- **Vaonis Atlas** (pre-order, ships March 2027): one or two 80 mm telescopes that clip onto one motorised mount. Big aperture, no eyepiece, untested so far.



Vaonis Vespera 3

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**All of these 14 models are good, though the Atlas is still a pre-order that nobody has tested** – it really just depends on your budget and what features you would value, i.e. an eyepiece, portability, better imaging capacity etc.

If you want my top three: the **Seestar S50 Pro** is the best all-rounder for most people, the **Dwarflab Draco** gives you premium specs for less, and the **Unistellar Odyssey Pro** is my pick if you have a bigger budget and want to share the sky.

- The budget models — **Dwarf Mini**, **Seestar S30 Plus**, **Dwarf 3**, **Seestar S30 Pro** — are perfect for beginners: small, light and capable.
- The **Seestar S50 Pro** and **Dwarflab Draco** bridge the gap between budget and premium at a compelling price.
- **Unistellar Odyssey Pro** if you want the sexiest and most fun model to share the experience with others
- **Celestron Origin Mk II** if you want the most serious astrophotography option




Me with the Unistellar Odyssey Pro

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# About Skies & Scopes

I'm **Anthony Robinson**, founder of **Skies & Scopes**.

I keep this **Best Smart Telescopes** article up-to-date at all times.



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