Northern Jewel Box

Quick Facts:

Distance: 5,900 Light-years.

Size: Approx 26 Light-years.

Constellation: Scorpius.

Rich cluster that is part of the Stinger in Scorpius. Hence, it's naked eye as well. Also called NGC 6231. It's estimated to be only 3 million years old. The cluster's brightest star shines with 1,000,000 times more energy than the sun.

Find it: Star hop starting at the double star at the end of the Stinger, then count along for the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and finally the sixth "star" is the cluster. GOTO: NGC (New General Catalogue).

Image: Roberto Mura. Quick reference card by Derek Wallentinsen.