Polaris (the North Star): Approximately **446.5 light years** away (Gaia mission data; some older estimates ranged 323–434 ly but recent measurements converge here). en.wikipedia.org +1

That's roughly **2.63 quadrillion miles** (1 light year ≈ 5.88 trillion miles).

Orion's Belt stars (Alnitak, Alnilam, and Mintaka): These three stars are *not* at the same distance from Earth—they only appear aligned in our sky (a line-of-sight effect). Their distances are: reddit.com +1

- **Alnitak** (ζ Orionis, easternmost): 1,260 light years (7.4 quadrillion miles).
- **Alnilam** (ε Orionis, middle): 2,000 light years (11.8 quadrillion miles).
- **Mintaka** (δ Orionis, westernmost): 1,200 light years (7.1 quadrillion miles).

(Some sources give slightly lower figures around 1,080–1,340 ly depending on the exact dataset, but the above are widely cited recent estimates.)

Planets (Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn): Unlike stars, planetary distances from Earth change constantly as both Earth and the planets orbit the Sun. There is no single "fixed" distance. Here are typical values (closest approach / opposition distances, plus rough averages for context). Light-travel times are also included because they're more intuitive than miles for solar-system scales: gist.github.com +1

- **Venus**: Closest 25–26 million miles (2.3 light-*minutes*); farthest ~160 million miles. Average separation from Earth is often cited around 25–41 million miles depending on the reference.
- **Mars**: Closest 35 million miles (3 light-minutes); can be as far as ~250 million miles.
- **Jupiter**: Closest 390 million miles (35 light-minutes); average Earth–Jupiter distance ~390–480 million miles.
- **Saturn**: Closest 746–750 million miles (70 light-minutes); average Earth–Saturn distance ~800–900 million miles.

(For reference: 1 AU = ~93 million miles = ~8.3 light-minutes. All these planets are a tiny fraction of a light-year away—e.g., even Saturn at its farthest is still only about 0.000015 light years.)

A few of the furthest stars visible to the naked eye:

Most naked-eye stars are within a few thousand light years, but a handful of very luminous supergiants push the limit (visibility also depends on dark skies and the star's apparent magnitude—brighter ones are easier). Distances are revised periodically with better parallax data (e.g., from Gaia), so exact "record holders" shift. Current contenders for among the most distant include: reddit.com +2

- **Eta Carinae** (in Carina, southern sky): ~7,500 light years (variable, can reach naked-eye brightness).
- **Rho Cassiopeiae** (in Cassiopeia): ~8,200 light years (one of the more frequently cited recent candidates).
- **S Carinae** (in Carina): up to ~12,000 light years at peak brightness (Mira-type variable).

(Note: The star V762 Cassiopeiae was once claimed as the record-holder at ~16,000 ly but revised much closer—now ~2,700–2,800 ly—so it no longer qualifies.)

These extreme distances mean the light you see left those stars thousands of years ago—essentially looking back in time! All values above are approximate and based on the best current astronomical data; ongoing missions like Gaia continue to refine them.