

Dave's Guide to catching up on Star Trek*

Took me a while but, as promised, here's my guide to the best of *Star Trek*. This is, in my opinion the best order in which to watch them, and the episodes from each series that will give you a good idea of what *Star Trek* is all about. Hopefully, you'll be interested enough to watch everything eventually—but this will give you a good start.

One thing you'll discover if you watch in this order is that, because of the way they were originally broadcast, *Next Generation* overlaps with *Deep Space Nine*, and *Deep Space Nine* overlaps with *Voyager*. Luckily, there's not too much crossover, so you should be fine. ☺

Star Trek (Original Series)

Most people would start new viewers on *Star Trek: The Next Generation*—and that's actually not a *bad* place to start. Feel free to skip these if you want. But I think this handful of episodes provides a good taste of what the original series was about and gives you some “historical” background. (This series takes place about 80 years before *Next Generation*.)

Season 1:

1. **Where No Man Has Gone Before**—the second pilot for the series
2. **The Menagerie Part 1 and 2**—the first pilot for the series folded into a two-part episode
3. **Balance of Terror**—introduces an ongoing enemy, the Romulans
4. **The Galileo Seven**—mainly included because this is the first episode of *Star Trek* I ever saw ☺
5. **Errand of Mercy**—introduces an ongoing enemy and eventual ally, the Klingons
6. **Space Seed**—the best of the movies is a sequel to this episode
7. **City on the Edge of Forever**—widely considered the best episode of the Original Series

Season 2:

8. **Amok Time**—great Spock episode; lots of background on the Vulcans
9. **Mirror, Mirror**—introduces an alternate universe that shows up in other series
10. **The Doomsday Machine**—MY favorite episode of the Original Series
11. **I, Mudd**

* Without watching 800+ episodes and 13 movies.

12. *Metamorphosis*

13. *Journey to Babel*—another good Spock episode

14. *Obsession*—No particular reason other than that it's a good episode

15. *The Trouble with Tribbles*—great comedy episode that's referenced in other series occasionally

16. *A Piece of the Action*—another funny episode

17. *The Immunity Syndrome*—just another good one

18. *The Ultimate Computer*—ditto

Season 3:

19. *The Enterprise Incident*—another Romulan episode

20. *Day of the Dove*—another Klingon episode

21. *The Tholian Web*—decent episode that's referenced in other series

Bonus points if you watch:

22. *Spock's Brain*—one of the top 5 worst episodes ever of any series

23. *Spectre of the Gun*—one that I think is okay but is really weird

24. *The Way to Eden*—as far I can tell, I am the ONLY *Star Trek* fan who likes this one (the songs are great)

Original Series Movies:

- ***Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan***—sequel to the episode *Space Seed*, and best of the movies
- ***Star Trek III: The Search for Spock***—not the greatest film...but it continues the story of *Wrath of Khan*
- ***Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home***—just a fun, lighter movie to wrap up the II, III, IV trilogy
- ***Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country***—almost as good as *Wrath of Khan*

Star Trek: The Animated Series

This was a 1972 cartoon series that had only 22 episodes. It was a continuation of The Original Series. You aren't missing much by skipping it entirely. ☺

Star Trek: The Next Generation

Honestly, this is where most people new to the series start. It's a lot more...modern...than the Original Series, and is the template for all of the newer *Trek* series.

Season 1:

1. **Encounter at Farpoint**—most of the first season is bad, and this is no exception; but it's the pilot and it introduces all the characters
2. **The Big Goodbye**—an okay episode that gives some info on the holodeck (a plot device that's important in a bunch of episodes)
3. **Heart of Glory**—A decent Klingon episode

Season 2:

4. **Elementary, Dear Data**—introduces a character that shows up again in a *great* future episode
5. **A Matter of Honor**—another good Klingon episode
6. **The Measure of a Man**—perhaps the first hint of what this show was going to become; really good
7. **Pen Pals**
8. **Q Who**—the introduction of the Borg
9. **Samaritan Snare**
10. **The Emissary**

Season 3:

11. **Who Watches the Watchers**
12. **Booby Trap**
13. **The Price**
14. **The Defector**
15. **Deja Q**
16. **Yesterday's Enterprise**—one of the best episodes of the series
17. **The Offspring**
18. **Sins of the Father**
19. **Captain's Holiday**
20. **Hollow Pursuits**
21. **The Most Toys**
22. **Sarek**
23. **The Best of Both Worlds Part I**

Season 4:

24. **The Best of Both Worlds Part II**
25. **Family**
26. **Reunion**
27. **Final Mission**
28. **Data's Day**

- 29. *The Wounded*
- 30. *First Contact*
- 31. *Galaxy's Child*
- 32. *Qpid*
- 33. *The Drumhead*
- 34. *In Theory*
- 35. *Redemption Part I*

Season 5:

- 36. *Redemption Part II*
- 37. *Darmok*
- 38. *Ensign Ro*
- 39. *Disaster*
- 40. *Unification Part I*
- 41. *Unification Part II*
- 42. *A Matter of Time*
- 43. *New Ground*
- 44. *Violations*
- 45. *Power Play*
- 46. *Ethics*
- 47. *The Outcast*
- 48. *Cause and Effect*
- 49. *The First Duty*
- 50. *The Perfect Mate*
- 51. *I, Borg*
- 52. *The Next Phase*
- 53. *The Inner Light*—so very, very good

Season 6:

- 54. *Relics*
- 55. *Rascals*
- 56. *Chain of Command Part I*
- 57. *Chain of Command Part II*
- 58. *Ship in a Bottle*
- 59. *Face of the Enemy*
- 60. *Tapestry*
- 61. *Birthright Part I*
- 62. *Birthright Part II*
- 63. *Starship Mine*
- 64. *Lessons*
- 65. *The Chase*
- 66. *Rightful Heir*

- 67. **Second Chances**
- 68. **Timescape**

Season 7:

- 69. **Gambit Part I**
- 70. **Gambit Part II**
- 71. **Attached**
- 72. **Inheritance**
- 73. **Parallels**
- 74. **The Pegasus**
- 75. **Homeward**
- 76. **Thine Own Self**
- 77. **Firstborn**
- 78. **Preemptive Strike**
- 79. **All Good Things...**

Star Trek: The Next Generation Movies:

1. **Star Trek: First Contact**—*This movie actually takes place somewhere mid-Deep Space Nine. (I only tell you this because, seeing Worf on another ship might be confusing before you watch Deep Space Nine.)*
2. **Star Trek Nemesis**—*Not a great film...but kind of necessary if you eventually plan to watch the Star Trek: Picard series.*

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine

This is my favorite *Star Trek* series...and it's harder to skip episodes in this one because there are a lot of long story arcs. Plus—at least in my opinion—there are a lot fewer bad episodes. But I'll do my best to whittle it down to the best ones.

Season 1:

1. **Emissary**
2. **Dax**
3. **The Nagus**
4. **Battle Lines**
5. **Progress**
6. **The Forsaken**
7. **Duet**
8. **In the Hands of the Prophets**

Season 2:

9. ***The Homecoming***
10. ***The Circle***
11. ***The Siege***
12. ***Rules of Acquisition***
13. ***Sanctuary***
14. ***The Alternate***
15. ***Paradise***
16. ***Shadowplay***
17. ***Blood Oath***
18. ***The Maquis Part I***
19. ***The Maquis Part 2***
20. ***The Wire***
21. ***Crossover***
22. ***The Collaborator***
23. ***The Jem'Hadar***

Season 3:

24. ***The Search Part I***
25. ***The Search Part II***
26. ***The House of Quark***
27. ***Second Skin***
28. ***Civil Defense***
29. ***Defiant***
30. ***Past Tense Part I***—Past Tense aired in 1995. It's downright scary how close they come to predicting our present.
31. ***Past Tense Part II***
32. ***Life Support***
33. ***Heart of Stone***
34. ***Through the Looking Glass***
35. ***Improbable Cause***
36. ***The Die is Cast***
37. ***Family Business***
38. ***Shakaar***
39. ***Facets***
40. ***The Adversary***

Season 4:

41. ***The Way of the Warrior***
42. ***The Visitor***
43. ***Hippocratic Oath***

- 44. **Indiscretion**
- 45. **Little Green Men**
- 46. **The Sword of Kahless**
- 47. **Our Man Bashir**
- 48. **Homefront**—Once again, this episode (and part 2, Paradise Lost) are scarily predictive of real-world events or at least real-world attitudes. This story is very post 9/11—even though it aired years before that attack.
- 49. **Paradise Lost**
- 50. **Return to Grace**
- 51. **Sons of Mogh**
- 52. **Bar Association**
- 53. **Accession**
- 54. **Shattered Mirror**
- 55. **The Muse**
- 56. **For the Cause**
- 57. **To the Death**
- 58. **Body Parts**
- 59. **Broken Link**

Season 5:

- 60. **Apocalypse Rising**
- 61. **The Ship**
- 62. **Looking for par'Mach in All the Wrong Places**
- 63. **Trials and Tribble-ations**
- 64. **Rapture**
- 65. **The Begotten**
- 66. **In Purgatory's Shadow**
- 67. **By Inferno's Light**
- 68. **Doctor Bashir, I Presume**
- 69. **Ties of Blood and Water**
- 70. **Ferengi Love Songs**
- 71. **Soldiers of the Empire**
- 72. **Children of Time**
- 73. **Empok Nor**
- 74. **In the Cards**
- 75. **Call to Arms**

Season 6:

- 76. **A Time to Stand**
- 77. **Rocks and Shoals**
- 78. **Sons and daughters**

79. ***Behind the Lines***
80. ***Favor the Bold***
81. ***Sacrifice of Angels***
82. ***You Are Cordially Invited***
83. ***Resurrection***
84. ***Statistical Probabilities***
85. ***The Magnificent Ferengi***
86. ***Waltz***
87. ***Far Beyond the Stars***
88. ***One Little Ship***
89. ***Change of Heart***
90. ***Wrongs Darker than Death or Night***
91. ***In the Pale Moonlight***
92. ***His Way***
93. ***The Reckoning***
94. ***Valiant***
95. ***Tears of the Prophets***

Season 7:

96. ***Image in the Sand***
97. ***Shadows and Symbols***
98. ***Chrysalis***
99. ***Treachery, Faith, and the Great River***
100. ***Once More Unto the Breach***
101. ***The Siege of AR-558***
102. ***Covenant***
103. ***It's Only a Paper Moon***
104. ***The Emperor's New Cloak***
105. ***Badda-Bing Badda Bang***
106. ***Inter Arma Enim Silent Leges***
107. ***Penumbra***
108. ***'Til Death Do Us Part***
109. ***Strange Bedfellows***
110. ***The Changing Face of Evil***
111. ***When It Rains...***
112. ***Tacking Into the Wind***
113. ***Extreme Measures***
114. ***The Dogs of War***
115. ***What You Leave Behind***

Star Trek: Voyager

Voyager is (overall) my least favorite series, but it has some good episodes. Unlike *Deep Space Nine*, most of them are stand-alone episodes, so it was a lot easier for me to pick and choose.

Season 1:

1. ***Caretaker***
2. ***Time and Again***
3. ***Phage***
4. ***Eye of the Needle***
5. ***Emanations***
6. ***Prime Factors***
7. ***Heroes and Demons***

Season 2:

1. ***Projections***
2. ***Non Sequitur***
3. ***Twisted***
4. ***Persistence of Vision***
5. ***Prototype***
6. ***Alliances***
7. ***Meld***
8. ***Dreadnought***
9. ***Death Wish***
10. ***Lifesigns***
11. ***Investigations***
12. ***Tuvix***
13. ***Resolutions***
14. ***Basics, Part I***

Season 3:

15. ***Basics, Part II***
16. ***False Profits***
17. ***Sacred Ground***
18. ***Future's End Part I***
19. ***Future's End Part II***
20. ***The Q and the Grey***
21. ***Macrocosm***
22. ***Fair Trade***
23. ***Blood Fever***

24. **Rise**
25. **Before and After**
26. **Real Life**
27. **Distant Origin**
28. **Displaced**
29. **Worst Case Scenario**
30. **Scorpion Part I**

Season 4:

31. **Scorpion Part II**
32. **The Gift**
33. **The Raven**
34. **Scientific Method**
35. **Year of Hell: Part I**
36. **Year of Hell: Part II**
37. **Mortal Coil**
38. **Message in a Bottle**
39. **Hunters**
40. **Prey**
41. **The Killing Game**
42. **Unforgettable**
43. **Living Witness**
44. **Demon**
45. **One**
46. **Hope and Fear**

Season 5:

47. **Drone**
48. **In the Flesh**
49. **Timeless**
50. **Infinite Regress**
51. **Thirty Days**
52. **Counterpoint**
53. **Latent Image**
54. **Bride of Chastica!**
55. **Bliss**
56. **Dark Frontier**
57. **Course: Oblivion**
58. **Think Tank**
59. **Someone to Watch Over Me**
60. **Relativity**
61. **Warhead**

62. Equinox Part I

Season 6:

- 63. Equinox Part II**
- 64. Tinker, Tenor, Doctor, Spy**
- 65. The Voyager Conspiracy**
- 66. Pathfinder**
- 67. Blink of an Eye**
- 68. Virtuoso**
- 69. Collective**
- 70. Child's Play**
- 71. Good Shepherd**
- 72. Live Fast and Prosper**
- 73. Muse**
- 74. Fury**
- 75. Life Line**
- 76. Unimatrix Zero Part I**

Season 7:

- 77. Unimatrix Zero Part II**
- 78. Imperfection**
- 79. Drive**
- 80. Critical Care**
- 81. Inside Man**
- 82. Body and Soul**
- 83. Shattered**
- 84. Lineage**
- 85. Repentance**
- 86. Prophecy**
- 87. The Void**
- 88. Workforce Part I**
- 89. Workforce Part II**
- 90. Q2**
- 91. Author, Author**
- 92. Natural Law**
- 93. Homestead**
- 94. Renaissance Man**
- 95. Endgame**

Star Trek: Enterprise

Lots of people don't like this series at all...but I like it better every time I watch it (which is about 7 times now). It is set 100 years before the Original

Series, and about 10 years before one of the current series, *Star Trek: Discovery*. A lot of people skip *Enterprise*...but I think it has a lot of good episodes.

One thing to note—Season 3 has a lot of connected episodes, and Season 4 has a lot of multi-parters. So I didn't leave many of those off. (Actually, the fact that I only skipped 26 episodes of this series is kind of a testament to how good it is.)

Season 1:

1. ***Broken Bow***
2. ***Strange New World***
3. ***The Andorian Incident***
4. ***Civilization***
5. ***Cold Front***
6. ***Dear Doctor***
7. ***Sleeping Dogs***
8. ***Shadows of P'Jem***
9. ***Shuttlepod One***
10. ***Fusion***
11. ***Acquisition***
12. ***Oasis***
13. ***Detained***
14. ***Vox Sola***
15. ***Fallen Hero***
16. ***Shockwave Part I***

Season 2:

17. ***Shockwave Part II***
18. ***Carbon Creek***
19. ***Minfield***
20. ***Dead Stop***
21. ***Marauders***
22. ***The Communicator***
23. ***Singularity***
24. ***Vanishing Point***
25. ***The Catwalk***
26. ***Stigma***
27. ***Cease Fire***
28. ***Future Tense***

- 29. **Cogenitor**
- 30. **Regeneration**
- 31. **The Expanse**

Season 3:

- 32. **The Xindi**
- 33. **Anomaly**
- 34. **Rajiin**
- 35. **Impulse**
- 36. **The Shipment**
- 37. **Twilight**
- 38. **Similitude**
- 39. **Carpenter Street**
- 40. **Chosen Realm**
- 41. **Proving Ground**
- 42. **Stratagem**
- 43. **Harbinger**
- 44. **Azati Prime**
- 45. **Damage**
- 46. **The Forgotten**
- 47. **E²**
- 48. **The Council**
- 49. **Countdown**
- 50. **Zero Hour**

Season 4:

- 51. **Storm Front**
- 52. **Storm Front Part II**—The two *Stormfront* episodes resolve the cliffhanger from Season 3, but could (honestly) be skipped if you weren't gripped by how the cliffhanger resolves.
- 53. **Home**
- 54. **Borderland**
- 55. **Cold Station 12**
- 56. **The Augments**
- 57. **The Forge**
- 58. **Awakening**
- 59. **Kir'Shara**
- 60. **Daedalus**
- 61. **Observer Effect**
- 62. **Babel One**
- 63. **United**
- 64. **The Aenar**

- 65. **Affliction**
- 66. **Divergence**
- 67. **In a Mirror, Darkly**
- 68. **In a Mirror, Darkly Part II**
- 69. **Demons**
- 70. **Terra Prime**
- 71. **These Are the Voyages...** This is perhaps the worst series finale of the bunch. Pretty disappointing. But it is what it is.

Star Trek: Discovery

Short Treks

Star Trek: Picard

Star Trek: Lower Decks

Star Trek: Strange New Worlds

Star Trek: Prodigy

These are the current/most recent shows. All are available on Paramount+ (except *Prodigy*, which is coming to Netflix in December, 2023). None of them has more than 15 episodes per season, and (in the case of *Discovery* and *Picard*) the seasons are long story arcs, so you have to watch every episode.

Strange New Worlds is in competition with *Deep Space Nine* for my FAVORITE *Star Trek*. That's saying something. It's just so very, very good.

I'll leave these to you. If you make it through all of the episodes on my list, you probably have a taste for *Star Trek*—and, speaking for someone who has been a fan since I was 7, these new series are just as good as any that have come before them.