Finding North by the Pole Star

In the northern hemisphere the North Star (Polaris) indicates the position of True North to within 2°. It is a bright star and can be found by producing a line from the two end stars, or 'pointers' of the Plough or Great Bear. The North Star will be found slightly off this line on the side furthest from the remaining stars of the Great Bear and at about five times the distance between the two pointers.

