

• **ophthalmic artery**

The optic canal is located posteriorly in the lesser wing of the sphenoid. It communicates with the middle cranial fossa. It transmits the optic nerve and the ophthalmic artery.

<b>Bony Opening</b>	<b>Location (<i>Bone</i>)</b>	<b>Contents</b>
Cribriform plate with foramina	Ethmoid	Olfactory nerves (CN I)
Hypoglossal canal	Occipital	Hypoglossal nerve (CN XII)
Carotid canal	Temporal	Internal carotid artery
Lacrimal canal	Maxilla and lacrimal	Nasolacrimal ( <i>tear</i> ) duct
Inferior orbital fissure	Sphenoid and maxilla	Infraorbital and zygomatic branches of maxillary nerve (V2), infraorbital artery, and <b>part of inferior ophthalmic vein</b>
Superior orbital fissure	Sphenoid	Oculomotor (CN III), trochlear (CN IV), and abducens (VI) nerves; lacrimal, frontal and nasociliary branches of ophthalmic nerve (V1); <b>superior and inferior divisions of ophthalmic vein</b> ; sympathetic fibers from cavernous plexus
Optic canal and foramen	Sphenoid bone	Optic nerve (CN II) and ophthalmic artery
Stylomastoid foramen	Temporal	Facial nerve (CN VII)