

©ABRAMS PLANETARIUM SKY CALENDAR MAY 2024

An aid to enjoying the changing sky

Use this scale to measure angular distances between objects on diagrams below.



Evening Planets: Jupiter disappears from view early in the month leaving the evening sky void of bright planets this May. We'll have to wait until late June to see the planet Mercury emerge into the evening sky. Jupiter is in conjunction with the Sun on May 18. Uranus is in conjunction with the Sun on May 13 and can't be seen this month.

Morning Planets: Saturn, Mars, and Mercury can be found low in the east at dawn early in the month. Mercury is at its greatest elongation on May 9 when it's 26° west of the Sun. But due to the shallow angle of the ecliptic relative to the horizon in the morning sky, Mercury never gets very far from the horizon. Binoculars will help in spotting the elusive planet. Mercury's brightness or "magnitude" increases from +1.0 to -0.8 during the course of the month. On what date can you last find Mercury before it's lost in the glare of the rising Sun? Mars is 16° to the upper right of Mercury on May 6. By the end of May, the angular separation between Mercury and Mars has grown to 31°. Mars, at magnitude 1.1, is essentially on the other side of the solar system from us. Earth will be moving closer to Mars all year as we approach the Mars opposition of January 2025. On May 1, Mars is 184 million miles away and by May 31 Mars is 173 million miles from Earth. Saturn is 14° to the upper right of Mars on May 1 and 35° to the upper right of Mars on May 31. A view of Saturn through a telescope reveals Saturn's rings. The inclination of the ring system changes as Saturn revolves around the Sun in its 30-year orbit. We are coming up on a ring plane crossing next year. That's when the rings appear edge-on as seen from the Earth. In mid-May, Saturn's rings are tilted 2.5° from edge-on. Venus is too close to the Sun to be seen this month but will re-emerge in July's evening sky.

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Sunday May 5, 40 minutes before sunrise</p> <p>Mercury mag 0.7 Moon Mars mag 1.1 Saturn mag 1.2</p> <p>ESE</p>	<p>Mon May 6, 40 minutes before sunrise</p> <p>Mercury mag 0.6 Old Moon Mars</p> <p>ESE</p>	<p>Tues May 7 New Moon 11:22 p.m. EST 8:22 p.m. PST</p> <p>Wed May 1, 40 minutes after sunset</p> <p>Aldebaran Hyades Pleiades Jupiter</p> <p>ESE</p>	<p>Wed May 1, 40 minutes after sunset</p> <p>Aldebaran Hyades Pleiades Jupiter</p> <p>ESE</p>	<p>Sunday May 5 Moon at Perigee 225,659 miles 6 p.m. EDT 3 p.m. PDT</p> <p>Wed May 1 Last Quarter Moon 7:27 a.m. EDT 4:27 a.m. PDT</p> <p>May 10-12, two hours after sunset</p> <p>Procyon CANIS MINOR</p> <p>Sunday 12 Pollux Castor GEMINI</p> <p>Sat 11 feet of GEMINI</p> <p>Wed May 15 First Quarter Moon 7:48 a.m. EDT 4:48 a.m. PDT</p> <p>Alpha Peg May 3-4, one hour before sunrise</p>	<p>Sunday May 5 Eta Aquariid Meteor shower peaks. This meteor shower is expected to show a noticeable outburst for several days on either side of the peak. The meteoroids causing this year's outburst were ejected from Halley's comet about 2500 years ago. This shower is the only strong meteor shower to occur near a new moon this year.</p> <p>May 13-15, one hour after sunset</p> <p>WED 15 SICKLE LEO Regulus</p> <p>Tues 14 Beehive Cluster</p> <p>Mon 13</p>	<p>Wed May 15 First Quarter Moon 7:48 a.m. EDT 4:48 a.m. PDT</p> <p>Saturn *</p>
<p>May 18-20, one hour after sunset</p> <p>VIRGO Sat 18 Sunday 19 CORVUS Mon 20 Spica</p>	<p>Tues May 21, one hour before sunrise</p> <p>PHI Psi¹ Saturn AQUARIUS</p> <p>Delta Epsilon Neptune Mars</p> <p>20 27 29 30 33</p> <p>ESE</p>	<p>Thurs May 9, 40 minutes before sunrise</p> <p>Mars Mercury (mag 0.4) at greatest elongation, 26° west of the Sun</p> <p>ESE</p>	<p>Thurs May 9, 40 minutes before sunrise</p> <p>Mars Mercury (mag 0.4) at greatest elongation, 26° west of the Sun</p> <p>ESE</p>	<p>Fri May 17 Moon at Apogee 251,431 miles 3 p.m. EDT 12 p.m. PDT</p> <p>Fri May 17, 40 minutes before sunrise</p> <p>Mercury mag 0.0</p> <p>ESE</p>	<p>Fri May 17, 40 minutes before sunrise</p> <p>Mercury mag 0.0</p> <p>ESE</p>	<p>Wed May 15 First Quarter Moon 7:48 a.m. EDT 4:48 a.m. PDT</p> <p>Saturn *</p>
<p>Mon 27 TEASPOON TERRITORY OF DOGS</p> <p>Sunday 26 Sat 25 SAGITTARIUS TEAPOT</p> <p>S SSW</p>	<p>May 23-27, one hour before sunrise</p> <p>Southernmost Moon, May 25 & 26</p> <p>SCORPIUS Antares Delta Sco</p> <p>Fri 24 Thurs 23</p> <p>SW</p>	<p>Tues May 23 Full Moon 9:53 a.m. EDT 6:53 a.m. PDT</p> <p>Is the second Last Quarter Moon in one month called a "Blue Last Quarter Moon?"</p>	<p>May 21-24, two hours after sunset</p> <p>Alpha Lib Tues 21 LIBRA Wed 22 Delta Sco Thurs 23 Antares Occultation</p> <p>SE SSE</p> <p>Scan QR code for details</p>	<p>May 21-24, two hours after sunset</p> <p>Alpha Lib Tues 21 LIBRA Wed 22 Delta Sco Thurs 23 Antares Occultation</p> <p>SE SSE</p> <p>Scan QR code for details</p>	<p>May 28-31, two hours before sunrise</p> <p>Beta Cap Delta Cap Wed 29 Thurs 30 Saturn mag 1.2</p> <p>SSE</p>	<p>May 28-31, two hours before sunrise</p> <p>Beta Cap Delta Cap Wed 29 Thurs 30 Saturn mag 1.2</p> <p>SSE</p>
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<p>The Moon is approaching a Major Standstill in January 2025. A Major Standstill happens every 18.6 years as the Moon's orbit precesses. This causes the Moon's declination to range more than 5° farther north and south each month compared to the average range.</p>	<p>Sat May 18 Astronomy Day</p>	<p>Thurs May 30 Last Quarter Moon 1:13 p.m. EDT 10:13 a.m. PDT</p>	<p>Thurs May 30 Last Quarter Moon 1:13 p.m. EDT 10:13 a.m. PDT</p>	<p>Thurs May 30 Last Quarter Moon 1:13 p.m. EDT 10:13 a.m. PDT</p>	<p>Thurs May 30 Last Quarter Moon 1:13 p.m. EDT 10:13 a.m. PDT</p>	<p>Thurs May 30 Last Quarter Moon 1:13 p.m. EDT 10:13 a.m. PDT</p>

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