

Guide to Viewing the Planets – Summer & Fall 2020

Mercury:

To find Mercury, look to the Northeast and close to the horizon.

- July 20 – August 1: 30 minutes before sunrise
- November 4 – November 25: 30 minutes before sunrise

Venus:

Venus is typically the brightest object in the night sky after the Moon. Look to the East to see the brilliantly bright planet that was often called the ‘morning’ or ‘evening’ star, depending on when it was visible.

- June (now) – December 31: 1 hour before sunrise

Earth:

We hope you won’t have any trouble finding this planet!

- Anytime (just look down!)

Mars:

Mars should be visibly orange/red in the sky. Look across the Southeastern sky to find Mars until later in the year, when it will be visible to the Southwest in the mornings.

- June (now) – July 31: 2am until sunrise
- August 1 – August 31: Midnight until sunrise
- September 1 – September 30: 11pm until sunrise
- October 1 – December 31: All evening

Jupiter:

Jupiter is the next brightest planet after Venus, and will dominate the Southern sky in the evenings throughout the summer. Jupiter and Saturn will be close together, with the brighter Jupiter leading the way and Saturn trailing behind.

- June (now) – June 31: Midnight until sunrise
- July – 10pm until sunrise
- August 1 – September 31: All evening
- October 1 – December 31: Several hours after sunset

Saturn:

Saturn will follow Jupiter across the sky, and should appear to the East of Jupiter as a result. Because it’s both smaller and farther away, Saturn won’t appear as bright as Jupiter in the sky. You may notice a pale yellow color to Saturn as well.

- June (now) – June 31: Midnight until sunrise
- July – 10pm until sunrise
- August 1 – September 31: All evening
- October 1 – December 31: Several hours after sunset