

The Sky This Month

14 September - 11 October 2020



What's On

22 September

Autumnal equinox

Autumnal equinox occurs at 14:31 on Tuesday, 22 September, marking the point when the Sun crosses into the southern celestial hemisphere from the north. At equinox, day and night are both nearly the same length at every point on the Earth's surface.

01 October

Best evening to see Mercury

The planet Mercury reaches its greatest eastern elongation of 26° on Thursday, 01 October. Evenings within about a week of this night will be your best opportunities to view the magnitude -0.0 planet. At sunset on this night, Mercury will be 2° above the western horizon and begin to appear against the darkening sky. It was set just 17 minutes afterward at 19:01.

03 October

Venus and Regulus

Wake up early before sunrise on Saturday, 03 October to see a close encounter between Venus and Regulus. At 04:34, the pair will be visible 10° above the eastern horizon, passing within only 0.23° of each other in the constellation Leo.

Moon and Mars

Also on Saturday, 03 October a close encounter between the planet Mars and the waning gibbous moon occurs. At 06:30, the pair will be visible 17° above the western horizon, passing within only 0.85° of each other in the constellation Pisces.

08 October

Draconids

The Draconids meteor shower reaches its peak activity on the night of 8–9 October. From our location, the number of visible meteors will be highest at 21:00 – expect to see about four meteors per hour. At that time the shower's radiant (the point in the sky from which meteors appear to originate) will be 50° above the northeastern horizon. Unfortunately, on the night of this shower, light from the waning gibbous moon will overwhelm all but the brightest meteors.

