

The Sky This Month

09 February – 08 March 2021



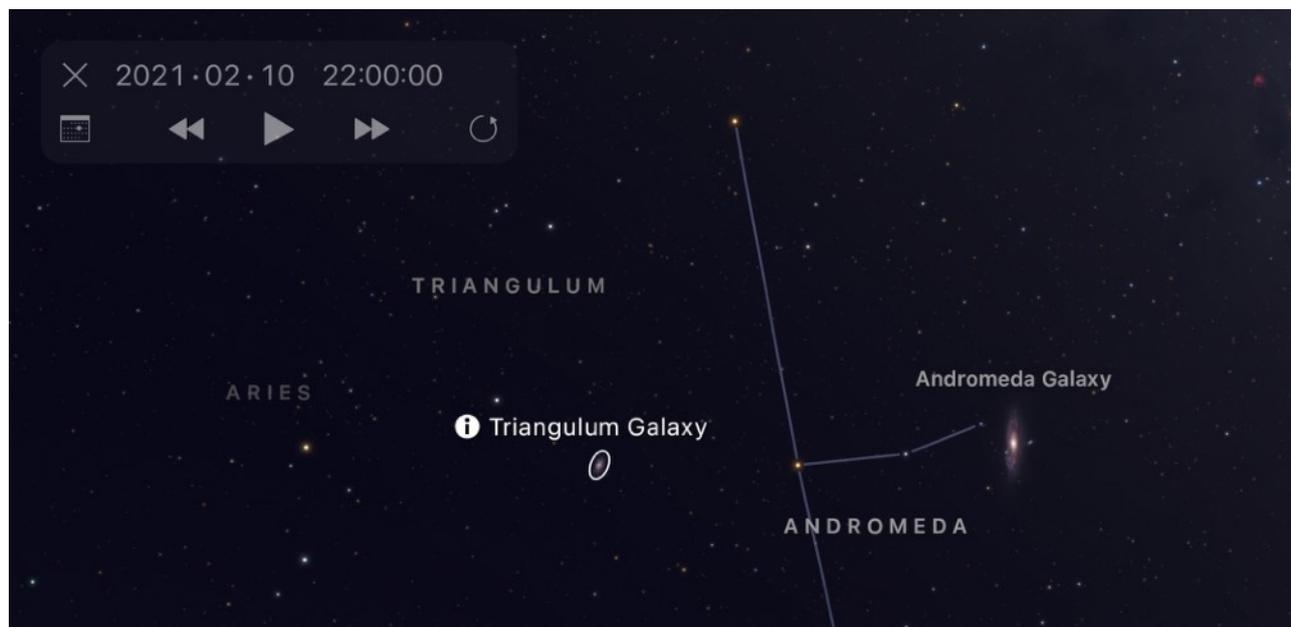
What's On

The first three weeks of this month will be ideal for the celestial show in the early evening because you won't have to contend with much moonlight, making for dark skies. The last week of February will be awash with moonlight, with the official full moon on 27 February. The full moon in February is sometimes called the 'Snow moon', or less frequently the 'Hunger moon'. Unfortunately, most of the planets are in hiding for much of February.

Thursday, 11 February 2021

M33 – the Triangulum Galaxy

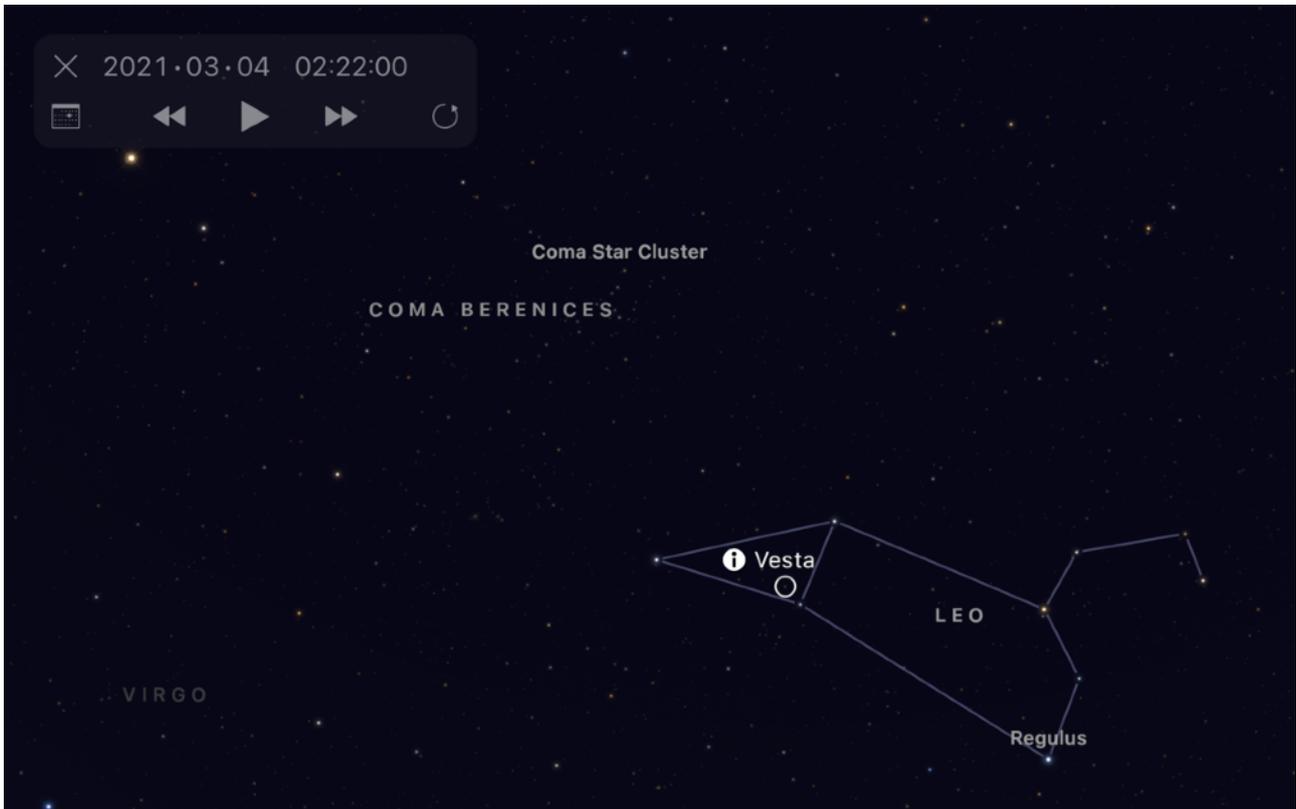
Around new moon on 11 February and away from towns and cities you may be able to spot M33, the third largest galaxy after M31 and our own galaxy in our own local group of galaxies. It is a 'face-on' spiral and its surface brightness is fairly low so a dark, transparent sky will be needed to spot it using binoculars.



Thursday, 04 March 2021

Asteroid Vesta at opposition

The asteroid Vesta will reach opposition at 02:22 on 04 March. This is the second largest asteroid in our solar system, and also the easiest to observe from Earth. When the sky is very dark, it can even be spotted with the naked eye. Although the giant asteroid Ceres is almost twice the diameter of Vesta, it's never as bright due to a darker surface and the fact that it never gets as close to earth.



Saturday, 06 March 2021

Best morning to see Mercury

The planet Mercury reaches its greatest western elongation of 27° on 06 March. Mornings within about a week of this time will be your best opportunities to view the magnitude +0.1 planet in the predawn sky. At 06:04, Mercury will emerge in the east and reach 5° above the horizon by sunrise, quickly fading into the brightening sky.

