

The Sky This Month

08 March – 12 April 2021



What's On

This month Mars is moving further away from the earth in its orbit and is the only planet that can be readily spotted from our position. However, it's getting so far away from the earth that it will only appear as an orange red dot and that's about it. Nonetheless, Mars still puts on a bit of a show in early March as it passes by the Pleiades – the bright open star cluster otherwise known as the Seven Sisters. It should make a nice view through a pair of binoculars.

Overall, the best evenings for stargazing will last until 21st March because you won't have to compete with moonlight filling the sky. In late March, the Moon takes over the sky again in the early evenings.

At this time of the year the Zodiacal Light rises steeply from the horizon at dusk – on a clear night from a very dark site look out for a very faint cone of light in the West just after the sun has gone down.

Wednesday, 10 March 2021

Mercury, Jupiter, Saturn & a very thin crescent Moon

Just before sunrise on 10 March, with clear skies and a clear low horizon towards the southeast, you may be able to spot Mercury, Jupiter and Saturn above a very thin waning crescent Moon. Take extreme care if using binoculars as the rising sun will appear quickly and can be blinding.



Friday, 19 March 2021

Mars and a waxing crescent Moon

Keep watch after sunset on 19th March to see a close encounter between Mars and the waxing crescent moon. At 19:42, the pair will be visible 44° above the south-western horizon, passing within only 2.04° of each other in the constellation Taurus.



Saturday, 20 March 2021

March Equinox

March equinox occurs at 10:37 on 20th March, marking the point when the Sun crosses into the northern celestial hemisphere from the south. At equinox, day and night are both nearly the same length at every point on Earth's surface.

Sunday, 28 March 2021

The 'Worm' Supermoon

The first of four super-moons this year when the full moon is unusually near and bright. Termed the 'Worm' Moon by Southern Native American tribes due to the thawing soil allowing the worms to come out of hiding.

Tuesday, 06 April 2021

Saturn and the crescent Moon

Around 06:00 Saturn lies above the crescent Moon in the morning sky, with Jupiter to the left. The following morning around the same time Jupiter appears near the crescent Moon with Saturn to the right.