

# The Sky This Month

## 14 November – 12 December 2022



### What's On

Thursday, 17 November

#### Leonids

The Leonids meteor shower reaches its maximum activity on the night of the 17th to 18th of November. From our location the number of visible meteors will be highest at 06:00. The showers radiant – the point in the sky from which meteors appear to originate – will be  $57^\circ$  above the southern horizon.



Monday, 28 November

#### Orionid meteor shower

The Orionid meteor shower which runs from 13 November to 06 December reaching its peak rate of meteors around 28 November. Over this period, there will be a chance of seeing Orionid meteors whenever the shower's radiant point – in the constellation Orion – is above the horizon, with the number of visible meteors increasing the higher the radiant point is in the sky.

Tuesday, 29 November

#### Conjunction of the Moon and Saturn

The Moon and Saturn will share the same right ascension, with the Moon passing  $4^\circ 09'$  to the south of Saturn. The Moon will be 6 days old. At around the same time, the two objects will also make a close approach, technically called an appulse. From our location, the pair will be visible in the evening sky, becoming accessible around 16:20,  $19^\circ$  above the southern horizon, as dusk fades to darkness. They will then reach their highest point in the sky at 17:03,  $20^\circ$  above the southern horizon. They will continue to be observable until around 20:25, when they sink below  $7^\circ$  above the south-western horizon.

Thursday, 01 December

### **Moon & Jupiter**

Keep watch after sunset on the 1st of December to see a close encounter between Jupiter and the waxing gibbous moon. At 23:44, the pair will be visible  $9^\circ$  above the western horizon, passing within only  $3.51^\circ$  of each other.



Thursday, 08 December 2022

### **Mars at opposition**

As the Earth makes its yearly orbital circuit, it reaches a point where the Sun and Mars are in opposite directions. Mars will appear a whopping seven times larger and 4.6 magnitudes brighter. It will also give ample observing time because when the Sun sets at 15:50 on the evening of 8th December Mars will rise and remain visible all night.

Thursday, 08 December 2022

### **Moon occults Mars**

The full moon will pass in front of Mars on 08 December. In astronomy, such an event is known as an occultation. From our location, Mars will disappear behind the moon at 04:56 and reemerge at 05:57.



Sunday, 11 December 2022

### **Moon & Pollux**

Wake up early before sunrise on 11 December to see a close encounter between Pollux and the waning gibbous moon. At 06:46, the pair will be visible  $36^\circ$  above the western horizon, passing within only  $2.24^\circ$  of each other in the constellation Gemini.