

The Sky This Month

13 May – 10 June 2024



What's On

16 May 2024 @ 00:12

1. Moon & Regulus

At 00:12 a conjunction between the first quarter Moon and Regulus will be visible 25° above the western horizon, passing within only 2.15° each other in the constellation Leo.

31 May 2024 @ 03:58

2. Moon & Saturn

Wake up early before sunrise on 31 May to see a close encounter between Saturn and the waning crescent moon. At 03:58, the pair will be visible 12° above the south-eastern horizon, passing within only 3.16° of each other in the constellation Aquarius.



Saturday, 01 June 2024

3. The Great Globular Cluster

The Great Globular Cluster in Hercules (M13, NGC 6205) will be well placed in the evening sky in the coming weeks. On Saturday, 01 June, it will reach its highest point in the sky. From our location, it is visible all night becoming visible around midnight, 69° above our south-eastern horizon, as dusk fades to darkness. It will then reach its highest point in the sky at 01:10, 72° above our southern horizon.

Monday, 03 June 2024

4. M12 Globular Cluster

The Globular Cluster M12 (NGC 6218) in Ophiuchus [*Off-E-Ucuss*] will be well placed in the evening sky in the coming weeks. On Monday, 03 June, it will reach its highest point in the sky. From our location, it is visible all night becoming visible around midnight, 33° above our southern horizon, as dusk fades to darkness. It will then reach its highest point in the sky at 01:08, 34° above our southern horizon.



5. Constellation of the month: Virgo

The constellation of Virgo is one of the largest and most recognisable constellations in the night sky, located along the ecliptic, the path the Sun travels across the sky. In May and June 2024, Virgo is visible from Manchester UK during the spring and early summer nights.

6. Virgo Cluster

One of the most notable features within Virgo is the Virgo Cluster, a rich galaxy cluster containing hundreds of galaxies. The brightest member of this cluster is Messier 87 (M87), a massive elliptical galaxy famous for containing a supermassive black hole at its centre, which was imaged for the first time in 2019.

7. M104 Sombrero Galaxy

Another prominent object in Virgo is the Sombrero Galaxy (Messier 104), which is easily recognizable due to its distinctive appearance resembling a sombrero hat when observed through telescopes.

8. Spica

Virgo is also home to the bright star Spica (Alpha Virginis), the 16th brightest star in the night sky. Spica is a binary star system consisting of two hot, blue stars orbiting each other.

In addition to these notable objects, Virgo contains numerous other galaxies, star clusters, and nebulae that can be explored with binoculars or a telescope.