

Planetary Positions

When it is not near the sun, **Venus** is always bright, sometimes even brilliant. It exhibits a crescent phase when it is near Earth, passing it as it races around the sun. When Venus is far from Earth, it is still relatively bright but presents a small gibbous phase in the telescope. **The months below are only for its more interesting crescent phase.**

Venus, during its crescent phase, either in the west 45 minutes after sunset or in the east 45 minutes before sunrise						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
January	---	---	In the SW after sunset.	---	---	---
February	---	---	In the West after sunset. Best view after Feb. 15.	---	---	---
March	---	---	Very low in the West after sunset before March 15.	---	---	---
April	---	---	Very low in the East before sunrise. Best views April 14-21.	---	---	In the West after sunset.
May	---	---	Low in the East before sunrise.	---	---	Very low in the West after sunset before May 21. Best views May 1-14.
June	Low in the West after sunset.	---	---	---	---	Very low in the NE before sunrise after June 21. Best views after June 25.

Venus, during its crescent phase, either in the west 45 minutes after sunset or in the east 45 minutes before sunrise						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
July	Low in the West after sunset. Best views July 14-21.	---	---	---	---	In the East before sunrise.
August	---	---	---	Very low in the West after sunset after Aug. 15.	---	In the East before sunrise before Aug. 15.
September	Low in the East before sunrise. Best view before Sept. 21.	---	---	Very low in the West after sunset. Best views around Sept. 21.	---	---
October	In the East before sunrise.	---	---	---	---	---
November	---	---	---	Very low in the East before sunrise after Nov. 7. Best views Nov. 7-21.	---	---
December	---	---	---	In the East before sunrise.	---	---

Mars is a suitable object through this telescope when it is relatively near Earth. This occurs for only four or five months out of every twenty-six. When it is far from Earth, i.e., near the opposite side of the sun, the planet presents a very small disk – too small to show any meaningful detail.

Mars, when it is close to Earth. About 90 minutes after sunset.						
Constellation	Scorpius, Libra			Sag., Cap.		Pisces, Aries
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
January	---	---	---	---	---	---
February	---	---	---	---	---	---
March	---	Rises in the SE after midnight	---	---	---	---
April	---	Rises after 11 p.m. in the SE.	---	---	---	---
May	---	Low in the SE. Best views around May 22.	---	Rises after midnight in the SE.	---	---
June	---	Low in the South.	---	Rises after 11 p.m. in the SE.	---	---
July	---	Low in the SW.	---	Low in the SE. Best views around July 27.	---	Rises after midnight in the East.
August	---	Low in the SW.	---	Low in the SE.	---	Rises after 11 p.m. in the East.
September	---	---	---	Low in the South.	---	Very low in the East.
October	---	---	---	Low in the South.	---	Low in the East. Best view around Oct. 11.
November	---	---	---	---	---	In the SE.
December	---	---	---	---	---	In the South.

Jupiter is always bright and large when it doesn't appear close to the sun. Its atmospheric clouds can be glimpsed, its non-round, flattened shape can be discerned, and its four large moons – Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto – can be found in any combination on either side of the planet. Jupiter is a fascinating object!

Jupiter, when it is seen 90 minutes after sunset						
Constellation	Cancer	Leo	Virgo	Libra	Scorpius	Sagittarius
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
January	Low in the East.	---	---	---	---	---
February	In the East. Best views in the week around 2/05.	Very low in the East.	---	---	---	---
March	High in the SE.	Low in the East. Best views in the week around 3/07.	Very low in East.	---	---	---
April	High in the South.	High in the SE.	Low in East. Best views in the week around 4/11.	Very low in SE.	---	---
May	High in the SW.	High in the South.	In the South.	Low in the SE. Best views in the week around 5/10.	Low in the SE.	---
June	In the West.	In the SW.	In the South.	In the South.	Low in the South. Best views in the week around 6/14.	Very low in the SE.
July	Very low in the West.	Low in the West.	In the SW.	In the SW.	Low in the South.	Low in the SE. Best views in the week around 7/14.
August	---	Very low in the West.	Low in the West.	Low in the SW.	Low in the SW.	Low in the South.
September	---	---	Very low in the West.	Low in the SW.	Low in the SW.	Low in the South.
October	---	---	---	Very low in the SW.	Very low in the SW.	Low in the South.
November	---	---	---	---	Very low in the SW.	Low in the SW.
December	---	---	---	---	---	Very low in the SW.

Of the bright planets, **Saturn** is the only one which doesn't dominate its area of the sky. It is about as bright as a bright star, so it doesn't immediately stand out. Through this telescope, both the planet and the rings are small. If the telescope is sharply focused, though, the rings can be easily seen, as well as Saturn's large moon Titan.

Saturn, when it is seen 90 minutes after sunset						
Constellation	Scorpius	Ophiuchus	Ophiuchus	Sagittarius	Sagittarius	Capricornus
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
January	---	---	---	---	---	---
February	---	---	---	---	---	---
March	---	---	---	---	---	---
April	Very low in the SE.	Very low in the SE.	---	---	---	---
May	Very low in the SE. Best views the week around May 21.	Very low in the SE.	---	---	---	---
June	Low in the South.	Low in the South. Best views the week around 6/03.	Very low in the SE. Best views the week around 6/15 .	Very low in the SE. Best views the week around 6/26.	Very low in the SE.	Very low in the SE.
July	Low in the South.	Low in the South.	Low in the South.	Low in the South.	Low in the SE. Best views the week around 7/09.	Low in the SE. Best view the week around July 19.
August	Low in the SW.	Low in the SW.	Low in the South.	Low in the South.	Low in the South.	Low in the South.
September	Low in the SW.	Low in the SW.	Low in the SW.	Low in the South.	Low in the South.	Low in the South.
October	Very low in the SW.	Very low in the SW.	Low in the SW.	Low in the SW.	Low in the SW.	Low in the South.
November	---	---	Very low in the SW.	Very low in the SW.	Very low in the SW.	Low in the SW.
December	---	---	---	---	---	Very low in the SW.