

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						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	---	---	---	---	---	
February	---	---	---	---	Very low in the SE before sunrise after Feb. 1. Best views Feb 7-14.	
March	---	---	---	---	---	
April	---	---	In the West after sunset.	---	---	
May	---	---	Very low in the West after sunset before May 21. Best views May 1-14.	---	---	
June		---	Very low in the NE before sunrise after June 21. Best views after June 25.	---	---	
July		---	In the East before sunrise.	---		In the West after sunset. Best views July 7-14.
August	Very low in the West after sunset after Aug. 15.	---	In the East before sunrise before Aug. 15.	---	---	

**Venus,
during its crescent phase, either in the west 45 minutes after sunset
or in the east 45 minutes before sunrise**

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
September	Very low in the West after sunset. Best views around Sept. 21.	---	---	---	---	Very low in the East before sunrise after Sept. 1. Best views Sept. 10-15.
October	---	---	---	---	---	---
November	Very low in the East before sunrise after Nov. 7. Best views Nov. 7-21.	---	---	Very low in the West after sunset after Nov. 15.	---	---
December	---	---	---	Very low in the South-southwest after sunset. Best views around Dec. 15.	---	---

Mars is a suitable object through this telescope when it is relatively near Earth. This occurs for only three, four, or five months out of every twenty-six. When Mars 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 with this telescope.

Mars, when it is close to Earth. About 90 minutes after sunset.						
Constellation	Sag., Cap.		Pisces		Taurus, Gemini	Taurus
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	---	---	---	---	---	High in the SE.
February	---	---	---	---	---	---
March	---	---	---	---	---	---
April	---	---	---	---	---	---
May	Rises after midnight in the SE.	---	---	---	---	---
June	Rises after 11 p.m. in the SE.	---	---	---	---	---
July	Low in the SE. Best views around July 27.	---	Rises after midnight in the East.	---	---	---
August	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.	---	Very low in the ENE.	---
December	---	---	In the South.	---	In the ENE. Best view around Dec. 7.	---

Jupiter is always bright and large when it doesn't appear close to the sun. Its atmospheric clouds can be glimpsed, its 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	Libra	Scorpius	Sagittarius	Capricornus	Aquarius	Pisces
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	---	---	---	---	Very low in WSE.	Low in the Southwest.
February	---	---	---	---	---	Very low in WSE.
March	---	---	---	---	---	---
April	Very low in SE.	---	---	---	---	---
May	Low in the SE. Best views in the week around	Low in the SE.	---	---	---	---
June	In the South.	Low in the South. Best views in the week around 6/14.	Very low in the SE.	---	---	---
July	In the SW.	Low in the South.	Low in the SE. Best views in the week around 7/14.	Very low in the SE.	---	---
August	Low in the SW.	Low in the SW.	Low in the South.	Low in the SE. Best views around 8/14.	---	---
September	Low in the SW.	Low in the SW.	Low in the South.	Low in the Southeast.	Very low in the East. Best views around 8/21.	---

Jupiter, when it is seen 90 minutes after sunset

October	Very low in the SW.	Very low in the SW.	Low in the South.	Low in the South.	Low in the ESE.	Very low in the East.
November	---	Very low in the SW.	Low in the SW.	Low in the South.	Low in the ESE.	Low in the ESE. Best views around 11/1.
December	---	---	Very low in the SW.	Low in the SW.	Low in the South.	High in the Southeast.

Of the bright planets, **Saturn** is the only one which doesn't dominate its area of the sky. It is about as bright as one of the brighter stars, 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	Sagittarius	Sagittarius	Sag./Cap.	Capricornus	Capricornus	Aquarius
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	---	---	---	---	---	Very low in the SW.
February	---	---	---	---	---	---
March	---	---	---	---	---	---
April	---	---	---	---	---	---
May	---	---	---	---	---	---
June	Very low in the SE. Best views around 6/26.	Very low in the SE shortly after sunset.	---	---	---	---
July	Low in the South.	Low in the SE. Best views around 7/09.	Very low in the SE. Best views around July 19.	Very low in the SE. Best views the week around July 27.	Very low in the SE after July 21.	---
August	Low in the South.	Low in the South.	Low in the South.	Low in the Southeast.	Very low in the SE. Best view around Aug. 14.	Very low in the SE after Aug. 1.
September	Low in the South.	Low in the South.	Low in the South.	Low in the South.	Low in the South.	Low in the SE. Best view around Aug. 25.
October	Low in the SW.	Low in the SW.	Low in the South.	Low in the South.	Low in the South.	Low in the Southeast.
November	Very low in the SW.	Very low in the SW.	Low in the SW.	Low in the South.	Low in the South.	Low in the South.
December	---	---	Very low in the SW.	Low in the SW.	Low in the SW.	Low in the SW.