

Astronomy News

Night Sky 2019 - May

Sunrise	Sunset	Mercury Sets	Venus Rises
1 st – 5:45am	1 st – 8:32pm	27 th – 9:51pm	1 st – 5:07am
10 th – 5:29am	10 th – 8:46pm	28 th – 9:59pm	10 th – 4:52am
20 th – 5:15am	20 th – 9:01pm	29 th – 10:07pm	20 th – 4:35am
30 th – 5:04am	30 th – 9:14pm	30 th – 10:14pm	30 th – 4:22am
		31 st – 10:20pm	
Moon Rise	Moon Set	Moon Rise	Moon Set
1 st – 4:59am	1 st – 4:34pm	19 th – 9:42pm	20 th – 6:32am
2 nd – 5:18am (E)	2 nd – 5:41pm (W)	20 th – 10:51pm	21 st – 7:14am
3 rd – 5:37am	3 rd – 6:50pm	21 st – 11:50pm	22 nd – 8:02am
4 th – 5:58am	4 th – 8:01pm	23 rd – 12:40am	23 rd – 8:58am
5 th – 6:21am (ENE)	5 th – 9:14pm (WNW)	24 th – 1:21am	24 th – 9:58am
6 th – 6:49am	6 th – 10:26pm	25 th – 1:54am	25 th – 11:02am
7 th – 7:23am	7 th – 11:37pm	26 th – 2:21am (ESE)	26 th – 12:07pm (WSW)
8 th – 8:06am	9 th – 12:41am	27 th – 2:44am	27 th – 1:12pm
9 th – 9:00am	10 th – 1:37am	28 th – 3:05am	28 th – 2:18pm
10 th – 10:04am	11 th – 2:22am	29 th – 3:24am	29 th – 3:25pm (W)
11 th – 11:17am	12 th – 2:59am	30 th – 3:42am (E)	30 th – 4:33pm
12 th – 12:34pm (ENE)	13 th – 3:29am (WNW)	31 st – 4:02am	31 st – 5:43pm
13 th – 1:54pm	14 th – 3:55am		
14 th – 3:14pm	15 th – 4:18am (W)	-----	-----
15 th – 4:34pm (E)	16 th – 4:41am	New Moon – 4th	All times
16 th – 5:53pm	17 th – 5:04am	First Quarter – 12th Full	in notes

17 th – 7:12pm	18 th – 5:29am (WSW)	Moon – 18th	are set for Somerton
18 th – 8:29pm (ESE)	19 th – 5:58am	Last Quarter – 26th	unless stated
Useful site: www.heavens-above.com	A S Zielonka		

At 5:15am on the 1st (half an hour before sunrise) low in the east a very thin crescent Moon will be 1½ degrees above the horizon (102 degrees azimuth) with Venus 16 degrees to the left and just 1 degree above the horizon (86 degrees azimuth). Venus will be at this position and time for a few days.

An occultation of the asteroid Vesta by the Moon is on the 2nd. This occurs over Southern Europe, northern Africa and northern South America.

On the 5th at 9:00pm low in the WNW and just 1 degree above the horizon a very thin crescent Moon may be seen.

From the 6th - 9th Mars passes within ¾ degrees of the star Zeta Tauri (2.9 mag) in Taurus.

The Eta Aquarids meteor shower reaches its peak through the night of the 6th and can be capable of producing up to 60 meteors per hour at its peak. The thin crescent Moon will set early in the evening leaving dark skies for what should be a good show. They can be seen between April 19th – May 28th.

At 9:30pm on the 6th in the WNW the bright star Aldebaran is just 2 degrees to the left of a thin crescent Moon which is 7 degrees above the horizon.

On the 7th at 10:00pm Mars will be 4½ degrees above the crescent Moon. The star Zeta Taurus is just 2½ degrees to the upper left of the Moon.

At 9:45pm on the 8th the crescent Moon lies halfway between the stars Nu Geminorum (4.1 mag) and Mu Geminorum (2.8 mag) in Gemini. They are approximately 1½ degrees from the Moon. Mars is 11 degrees to the lower right of the Moon.

From the 9th – 10th the asteroid Juno passes within 3 degrees of the star Alhena (1.9 mag) in Gemini.

On the 9th at 9:30pm the star Wasat in Gemini is just 1½ degrees to the right of the crescent Moon. An occultation of Wasat by the Moon occurs today though this will be visible from the Caribbean, North Africa and South West Europe.

The Eta Lyrids meteor shower reaches its peak on the morning of the 10th.

At 9:30pm on the 10th the Beehive Star Cluster (M44) is just 3 degrees above left of the Moon.

On the 12th at 9:30pm the bright star Regulus in Leo is 3½ degrees to the lower right of the Moon.

At 9:30pm on the 13th the star Chertan (3.3 mag) in Leo is 7 degrees above the Moon.

On the 14th at midnight the star Porrima (2.7 mag) in Virgo is 7½ degrees to the left of the Moon and at the same time on the 15th Porrima will be 7 degrees to the right of the Moon.

At 10:00pm on the 16th the star Spica in Virgo is 9 degrees to the right of the Moon.

On the 17th at 10:00pm the star Zubenelgenubi (2.7 mag) in Libra is 3½ degrees to the lower right of the Moon. From the 18th - 19th Uranus passes within ¼ degrees of the planet Venus which rises 40 minutes approximately before the Sun. At 5:45am Venus is 1 degree above ENE horizon (73.5 degrees azimuth) with Uranus just above it.

At midnight on the 18th the star Acrab (2.5 mag) in Scorpius is 4½ degrees to the lower left of the Moon.

The asteroid Ceres is 4 degrees above right of the Moon at midnight on the 19th. (For further information please see 'Asteroids' section in the website above).

On the 19th at midnight Jupiter is 9½ degrees to the lower left of the Moon... and at 4:30am Jupiter is 8 degrees left of the Moon.

There is an occultation of the asteroid Ceres by the Moon on the 19th. This only occurs over Antarctica.

At midnight on the 20th in the south east Jupiter is just 3¾ degrees to the right of the Moon.

In the evenings from the 20th - 31st Jupiter will be passing within 2½ degrees to the star Theta Ophiuchi (3.2 mag) in Ophiuchus.

Mercury is at superior conjunction on the 21st.

On the night of the 21st at 1:00am in the south east, Saturn is 11 degrees to the lower left of the Moon. The star Kaus Borealis (2.8 mag) in Sagittarius is 3¼ degrees to the right of the Moon.

At 1:30am on the night of 22nd Saturn is just 2 degrees above the Moon. The star Pi Sagittarii (2.8 mag) is 4 degrees to the upper right of Saturn. An occultation of Saturn by the Moon occurs this evening and will only be visible from the southern tip of Africa and Australia.

An occultation of Pluto by the Moon is on the 23rd. This will occur over northern South America and southern Africa.

Mercury is at Perihelion (its closest to the Sun in its orbit) on the 24th.

From the 23rd -25th Mars passes within 2 degrees of the star Mu Geminorum (2.8 mag) in Gemini.

On the 25th at 4:30am the star Iota Capricorni (4.2 mag) is 2 degrees above left of the Moon.

At 4:00am on the 27th Neptune is 9 degrees above left of the Moon. The star Tau Aquarii (4th mag) is just 2 degrees to the right of the Moon.

On the 28th at 4:00am Neptune is 6 degrees above right of the Moon.

An occultation of the asteroid Vesta by the Moon is on the 30th (the second time this month). This occurs over the coastal regions of the far east Asia, Alaska and western areas of Canada & America.

At 4:15am on the 31st Uranus is 7½ degrees above left of the Moon.

News: Israeli nonprofit SpaceIL successfully inserted its spacecraft, Beresheet into the moon's orbit on the 5th April. The small spacecraft has made Israel the seventh nation to orbit the Moon. On February 21st, the team launched it into Earth's orbit on a Falcon 9 rocket, and for weeks its orbit around the Earth expanded until it reached an elliptical lunar orbit.

Facts: On the 18th May 1981 Helen Sharman became the first woman, and the first British Astronaut in space.