

Visible planets



Mercury moves out from the opposite side of the Sun, superior conjunction, and into the evening skies where it will be visible through much of the month of August as an “evening star.”



Venus will remain visible as an “evening star” for part of July, but gradually, by the middle of August, Venus will move into inferior conjunction, between the Earth and the Sun. Watch for Venus to reappear as a “morning star” this fall.

Our Moon, just past full phase, will be at its closest distance from the Earth when it reaches a perigee of 222,022 miles [357,310 km] on August 2nd. Call it a “supermoon”!



Mars will be visible but low over the southwest horizon at sunset. Over the next few months, Mars will become less bright, as the distance between the Earth and Mars has been steadily increasing since the Red Planet’s opposition with the Earth last fall.



Dwarf planet Ceres will be too dim to be seen without optical assistance; however, its position in the constellation Virgo the Harvest Maiden may be found on the nights of July 23rd and August 20th when the waxing crescent Moon will be passing by this Dwarf Planet.



Jupiter ends the summer months, rising late at night near midnight local time and shining very brightly near the stars of Aries the Ram. However, as the Earth revolves, Jupiter will gradually rise earlier in the evening.



Saturn rises before midnight local time and is still moving in retrograde motion across the stars of Aquarius the Water Bearer. This ringed planet reaches opposition toward the end of August, and during that time the northern hemisphere of Saturn will be tilted toward us, offering us a look at the topside of the rings.

July

01 Venus–Mars conjunction

Waxing gibbous Moon–
Antares conjunction

02 Moon at southernmost
declination: 27.8° S

03 Full Moon

04 Moon at perigee: 223,818
miles [360,200 km]

06 Earth at aphelion: 1.0167
AU [94,508,169 miles;
152,096,155 km]

07 Waning gibbous Moon–
Saturn conjunction

09 Last quarter Moon

10 Mars–Regulus conjunction
Waning crescent Moon at
ascending node

11 Waning crescent Moon–
Jupiter conjunction

13 Waning crescent Moon near
the Pleiades

15 Moon at northernmost
declination: 27.8° N

17 New Moon

19 Waxing crescent Moon–
Venus conjunction

Waxing crescent Moon–
Mars conjunction

20 Moon at apogee: 252,463
miles [406,300 km]

Waxing crescent Moon–
Mars conjunction

24 Waxing crescent Moon–
Spica conjunction

25 Moon at descending node
First quarter Moon

27 Mercury–Venus conjunction

28 Delta aquarid shower: ZHR =
20

Waxing gibbous Moon–
Antares conjunction

30 Moon at southernmost
declination: 27.9° S

August

01 Full Moon

02 Moon at perigee: 222,016
miles [357,300 km]

03 Waning gibbous Moon–
Saturn conjunction

06 Waning gibbous Moon at
ascending node

08 Waning gibbous Moon–
Jupiter conjunction

Last Quarter Moon

09 Waning crescent Moon–
Pleiades conjunction

Mercury at greatest eastern
elongation: 27.4° E

12 Moon at northernmost
declination: 28° N

13 Mercury–Mars conjunction
Perseid meteor shower:
ZHR = 90

Venus at inferior
conjunction

Waning crescent Moon–
Pollux conjunction

16 New Moon

Moon at apogee: 252,650
miles [406,600 km]

18 Waxing crescent Moon–
Mars conjunction

21 Waxing crescent Moon–
Spica conjunction

Moon at descending node

24 Last quarter Moon

Waxing gibbous Moon–
Antares occultation

26 Waxing gibbous Moon at
southernmost declination:
28.1° S

27 Saturn at opposition

30 Moon at perigee: 221,954
miles [357,200 km]

Moon–Saturn conjunction
Full Moon