

Visible planets



Mercury is visible but low above the western horizon at sunset. However, as the fastest solar orbiting planet, Mercury moves into inferior conjunction, between the Earth and Sun, by the end of September. Start watching for the innermost planet to reappear as an evening planet during October.



Venus starts September low over the eastern horizon as this inner planet steadily moves eastward and into superior conjunction during October. Watch for Venus to pass the star Regulus during the first week of September.



Mars rises before midnight local time and will spend the next two months slowly moving eastward past the two open star clusters in Taurus, the Pleiades, and the Hyades.



Dwarf planet Ceres is too dim to be seen without optical assistance but could be followed as it moves eastward toward the star Regulus in the constellation Leo the Lion.



Jupiter rises after sunset local time and is visible above the horizon all night and setting in the west around sunrise.



Saturn rises a couple of hours before Jupiter and is visible above the horizon all night; however, Saturn sets 2–3 hours before sunrise.