

What's in the Sky December 2023



December 2-8: International Space Station Local Viewing Opportunities spotthestation.nasa.gov

December 2, 6:18 PM. Appears 10° above N. Visible 2 mins. Disappears 13° above NNE. Max height 13°

December 3, 7:05 PM. Appears 10° above NW. Visible 2 mins. Disappears 28° above NNW. Max height 28°

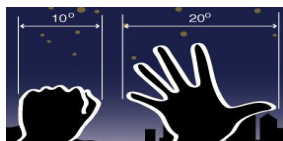
December 4, 6:17 PM. Appears 10° above NNW. Visible 5 mins. Disappears 21° above E. Max height 32°

December 5, 7:05 PM. Appears 10° above WNW. Visible 4 mins. Disappears 25° above S. Max height 34°

December 6, 6:16 PM. Appears 10° above NW. Visible 7 minutes. Disappears 10° above SE. Max height 73°

December 8, 6:17 PM. Appears 10° above W. Visible 5 minutes. Disappears 10° above S. Max height 20°

* Degrees are measured from the horizon. To measure degrees use your hand on an outstretched arm.



December 13-14: The Geminid Meteor Shower

The overall duration of the Geminid Meteor Shower is from November 19 to December 24. Peak activity is expected to be overnight December 13 to 14. Fifty or more meteors per hour are predicted from an area with moonless, dark conditions, and about 100 to 150 under moonless, extremely dark sky conditions. The Moon will have set earlier in the evening and will not interfere. Although some meteors may be seen a few hours before midnight it is best viewed around 2:00 A.M.

December 21: The First Day of Winter (The Winter Solstice)

Winter in the Northern Hemisphere begins on December 21, 2023, at 10:27 P.M. EST. Winter Solstice is the shortest day of the year.

December 26: Full Cold Moon

December's Cold Moon will rise around 6:30 PM CST.

Planets

Just before dawn on **December 9**, Venus will hover above a crescent Moon. A spectacular site. Jupiter will be on display all month. Jupiter will be in position above a waxing gibbous Moon on **December 21st**. On **December 22nd** Jupiter will be even closer to the Moon. On **December 17th**, Saturn stands extremely close to the Moon from 6:00 PM onward. You won't want to miss these striking pairs light up the night sky.

Find the ISS Toolbox Challenge: On November 1st a pair of International Space Station astronauts were conducting maintenance on the outside of the space station when a toolbox broke loose and floated away. It is now travelling 22 minutes ahead of the space station. It is visible with binoculars. Look in the area where the space station is scheduled to appear 30 to 45 minutes prior to the appearance of the ISS. The light from the setting sun will illuminate it.