



March 1: Jupiter and Venus Conjunction

Jupiter and Venus will appear very close to each other. After March 1 they will slowly drift apart with Jupiter setting around 8:30 CST and Venus moving higher in the sky. Jupiter will soon leave the night sky and join Saturn in the pre-dawn sky in May.

March 7: Full Moon

This month's full moon is often called the Worm Moon due to worms emerging from the soil as temperatures gradually rise this time of year. It is considered the last full moon of Winter. Moonrise 6:50PM.

March 12: Daylight Savings time

Don't forget. Set your clocks. Spring forward 1 hour.

March 20: Spring Equinox

At 4.24PM CST the Sun will cross the celestial equator and head north. This event signals Spring in the Northern Hemisphere and Autumn in the Southern Hemisphere.

March 19: Saturn Near Crescent Moon

Saturn will rise 5:14AM CST just a few minutes before twilight on the southeastern horizon. A very thin crescent moon will rise 9 minutes after Saturn. If you happen to have an early morning eastwardly commute watch for it. It's a beautiful sight to start your day.

March 21: New Moon

With no interference from the moon, this is a perfect night to observe Jupiter, Mars and Venus.

Planetary Lineup

Jupiter is still viewable but is setting early in the evening, around 8:30PM. Saturn is now rising in the pre-dawn sky and is now a daytime planet. Mars continues overhead at night, setting around 2:00AM. Venus is viewable all night.

Venus has phases, like the moon, but with a twist. The Moon doesn't appear to change in size as it goes through its phases because the distance from the Moon to Earth does not vary. Venus is sometimes relatively close to Earth; other times it's on the other side of the Sun. It's this change in position that causes the phases of Venus. When Venus is full, it appears like a fully illuminated but tiny disk. As it comes closer to us, the apparent size increases, and the phase changes. Probably the most exciting phase to watch is the crescent, which appears when Venus and Earth make their closest approach to each other, at *inferior conjunction*. Venus is larger and brighter in the thinnest crescent phase. The Moon reflects maximum light during its full phase, while Venus does so as a crescent.