Sky Calendar – October 2019

3  Moon near Antares (evening sky) at 7h UT.
3  Moon near Jupiter (evening sky) at 22h UT. Mag. –2.0.
5  First Quarter Moon at 16:47 UT.
5  Moon near Saturn (evening sky) at 21h UT. Mag. 0.5.
Ocultation visible from southern Africa.
10  Moon at apogee (farthest from Earth) at 18h UT (distance 405,899 km; angular size 29.4').
13  Full Moon at 21:10 UT.
17  Moon near the Pleiades (morning sky) at 5h UT.
17  Moon near Aldebaran (morning sky) at 22h UT.
20  Mercury at greatest elongation east (25° from Sun, evening sky) at 6h UT.
21  Observed after midnight on night of Oct 21-22.
Last Quarter Moon at 12:40 UT.
21  Orionid meteor shower peaks at 17h UT. Arises from the debris field of Comet Halley. Active from October 2 to November 7. Produces very fast (67 km/sec) meteors (20 per hour). Radiant located near Orion’s club asterism. Best observed after midnight on night of Oct 21-22.
22  Moon near Beehive cluster M44 (morning sky) at 6h UT.
23  Moon near Regulus (morning sky) at 20h UT.
26  Moon at perigee (closest to Earth) at 10:42 UT (361,311 km; angular size 33.1').
26  Moon near Mars (18° from Sun, morning sky) at 21h UT. Mag. 1.8.
28  New Moon at 3:39 UT. Start of lunation 1198.
28  Uranus at opposition at 8h UT. Mag. 5.7.
29  Moon near Venus (20° from Sun, evening sky) at 16h UT. Mag. –3.9. Elusive Mercury (Mag. 0.2) is 3.0° South of Venus.
30  Moon near Antares (evening sky) at 17h UT.
31  Mercury 2.6° SSW of Venus (21° from Sun, evening sky) at 5h UT. Mags. 0.5 and –3.9.
31  Moon near Jupiter (evening sky) at 15h UT. Mag. –1.9.

More sky events and links at http://Skymaps.com/skycalendar/
All times in Universal Time (UT). (Singapore Standard Time = UT + 8 hours.)
**About the Celestial Objects**

Listed on this page are several of the brighter, more interesting celestial objects visible in the evening sky this month (refer to the monthly sky map). The objects are grouped into three categories. Those that can be easily seen with the naked eye (that is, without optical aid), those easily seen with binoculars, and those requiring a telescope to be appreciated. Note, all of the objects (except single stars) will appear more impressive when viewed through a telescope or very large binoculars. They are grouped in this way to highlight objects that can be seen using the optical equipment that may be available to the star gazer.

**Tips for Observing the Night Sky**

When observing the night sky, and in particular deep-sky objects such as star clusters, nebulae, and galaxies, it's always best to observe from a dark location. Avoid direct light from street lights and other sources. If possible observe from a dark location away from the light pollution that surrounds many of today's large cities.

You will see more stars after your eyes adapt to the darkness—usually about 10 to 20 minutes after you go outside. Also, if you need to use a torch to view the sky map, cover the light bulb with red cellophane. This will preserve your dark vision.

Finally, even though the Moon is one of the most stunning objects to view through a telescope, its light is so bright that it brightens the sky and makes many of the fainter objects very difficult to see. So try to observe the evening sky on moonless nights around either New Moon or Last Quarter.

**Astronomical Glossary**

**Conjunction** – An alignment of two celestial bodies such that they present the least angular separation as viewed from Earth.

**Constellation** – A defined area of the sky containing a star pattern.

**Diffuse Nebula** – A cloud of gas illuminated by nearby stars.

**Double Star** – Two stars that appear close to each other in the sky; either linked by gravity so that they orbit each other (binary star) or lying at different distances from Earth (optical double). Apparent separation of stars is given in seconds of arc (″).

**Ecliptic** – The path of the Sun’s center on the celestial sphere as seen from Earth.

**Elongation** – The angular separation of two celestial bodies. For Mercury and Venus the greatest elongation occurs when they are at their most angular distance from the Sun as viewed from Earth.

**Galaxy** – A mass of up to a billion stars held together by gravity.

**Globular Star Cluster** – A ball-shaped group of several thousand old stars.

**Light Year (ly)** – The distance a beam of light travels at 300,000 km/sec in one year.

**Magnitude** – The brightness of a celestial object as it appears in the sky.

**Open Star Cluster** – A group of tens or hundreds of relatively young stars.

**Opposition** – When a celestial body is opposite the Sun in the sky.

**Planetary Nebula** – The remnants of a shell of gas blown off by a star.

**Universal Time (UT)** – A time system used by astronomers. Also known as Greenwich Mean Time. Singapore Standard Time is UT plus 8 hours.

**Variable Star** – A star that changes brightness over a period of time.

---

**EQUATORIAL EDITION OCTOBER 2019**

**Easily Seen with the Naked Eye**

- **Altair Aql** – Brightest star in Aquila. Name means “the flying eagle”. Dist=16.8 ly.
- **δ Cephei Cep** – Cepheid prototype. Mag varies between 3.5 & 4.4 over 5.366 days. Mag 6 companion.
- **Deneb Cyg** – Brightest star in Cygnus. One of the greatest known supergiants. Dist=1,400±200 ly.
- **Achernar Eri** – Brightest star in Eridanus, The River. Arabic name meaning “end of river”. Dist=144 ly.
- **Vega Lyn** – The 5th brightest star in the sky. A blue-white star. Dist=25.0 ly.
- **Algol Per** – Famous eclipsing binary star. Magnitude varies between 2.1 & 3.4 over 2.867 days.
- **Fomalhaut PsA** – Brightest star in Piscis Austrinus. In Arabic the "fish's mouth". Dist=25 ly.
- **Pleiades Tau** – The Seven Sisters. Spectacular cluster. Many more stars visible in binoculars. Dist=399 ly.

**Easily Seen with Binoculars**

- **M31 And** – The Andromeda Galaxy. Most distant object visible to naked eye. Dist=2.5 million ly.
- **M2 Aqr** – Resembles a fuzzy star in binoculars.
- **η Aquilae Aql** – Bright Cepheid variable. Mag varies between 3.6 & 4.5 over 7.166 days. Dist=1,200 ly.
- **6397 Cygni Cyg** – Thought to be the nearest globular. Dist=7,000 ly.
- **Mira Cet** – Famous long period variable star. Mag varies between 3.0 & 10.1 over 730 days.
- **M39 Cyg** – May be visible to the naked eye under good conditions. Dist=900 ly.
- **ε Lyrae Lyn** – Famous Double Double. Binoculars show a double star. High power reveals each a double.
- **R Lyrae Lyn** – Semi-regular variable. Magnitude varies between 3.9 & 5.0 over 46.0 days.
- **IC 6665 Oph** – Large, scattered open cluster. Visible with binoculars.
- **6633 Oph** – Scattered open cluster. Visible with binoculars.
- **κ Pavo Pav** – Cepheid-type. Magnitude varies between 3.9 & 4.8 over 9.088 days.
- **6752 Pav** – One of the better globular star clusters in the sky. Dist=14,000 ly.
- **M15 Peg** – Only globular known to contain a planetary nebula (Mag 14, d=1″). Dist=30,000 ly.
- **ζ Phoenicis Phe** – Eclipsing binary star and double (mag 8). Varies between 3.9 & 4.4 over 1667 days.
- **M8 Sgr** – Lagoon Nebula. Bright nebula bisected by a dark lane. Dist=5,200 ly.
- **M25 Sgr** – Bright cluster located about 6 degrees N of “teapot’s” lid. Dist=1,900 ly.
- **M22 Sgr** – A spectacular globular star cluster. Telescope will show stars. Dist=10,000 ly.
- **M6 Sco** – Butterfly Cluster. 30+ stars in 7x binoculars. Dist=1,900 ly.
- **M7 Sco** – superb open cluster. Visible to the naked eye. Age=260 million years. Dist=780 ly.
- **253 Sco** – Fine, large, cigar-shaped galaxy. Requires dark sky. Member of Sculptor Group.
- **47 Tucanae Tuc** – Spectacular object. Telescope will reveal stars. Near edge of SMC. Dist=15,000 ly.
- **β Tucanae Tuc** – Complex multiple star. Binoculars show one pair. Telescope required to split primary star.
- **Cr 399 Vul** – Coathanger asterism or “Brocchi’s Cluster”. Not a true star cluster. Dist=218 to 1,140 ly.

**Telescopic Objects**

- **γ Andromedae And** – Attractive double star. Bright orange star with mag 5. Blue companion. Sep=9.8″.
- **7009 Aqr** – Saturn Nebula. Requires 8-inch telescope to see Saturn-like appendages.
- **γ Arietis Ari** – Impressive looking double blue-white star. Visible in a small telescope. Sep=7.8″.
- **η Cassiopeiae Cas** – Yellow star mag 3.4 & orange star mag 7.5. Dist=19.0 ly. Orbit=480 years. Sep=12″.
- **61 Cygni Cyg** – Beautiful double star. Contrasting colours of orange and blue-green. Sep=34.4″.
- **ε Delphini Del** – Attractive double star. Mags 5.2 & 5.1 orange dwarfs. Dist=11.4 ly. Sep=28.4″.
- **β Lyrae Lyn** – Eclipsing binary. Mag varies between 3.3 & 4.3 over 12,940 days. Fainter mag 7.2 blue star.
- **M23 Sgr** – Elongated star cluster. Telescope required to show stars. Dist=2,100 ly.
- **M21 Sgr** – A fine and impressive cluster. Dist=4,200 ly.
- **M17 Sgr** – Omega Nebula. Contains the star cluster NGC 6618. Dist=4,900 ly.
- **M16 Ser** – Eagle Nebula. Requires a telescope of large aperture. Dist=6,150 ly.
- **M33 Tri** – Fine face-on spiral galaxy. Requires a large aperture telescope. Dist=2.3 million ly.

---

The Evening Sky Map (ISSN 1839-7735) Copyright © 2000–2019 Kym Thalassoudis. All Rights Reserved.