



ASTRONOMY CALENDAR

What will be worth photographing in the night sky in the coming period? Here are some tips from Petr Horálek.



GEMINID METEOR SHOWER

The Geminid meteor shower culminates on December 14. Meteors are slow and often quite bright. The peak activity expected in the night from the 13th to the 14th. In ideal conditions (clear sky, in the countryside), 200 fairly bright meteors will be visible in the moonlight in the small hours. There's really no point trying to

observe the meteor shower in towns or cities, where light smog will render most of the Geminids invisible.



Best place for photography:

northern hemisphere, plus up to 25° below the equator (mainly north of the globe).



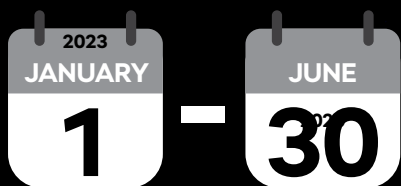
“PLANETARY SHOW” OF THE FIVE BRIGHT PLANETS AND MOON

The end of December 2022 will bring the rare sight of all five bright planets in our solar system and the Moon at one time, lasting from the 27th to the 31st of the month. We'll have to look out for Venus and Mercury at the bright light of dusk, however. Saturn, Jupiter and Mars will then be quite high in the sky after

dusk. The Moon will be waxing over the course of several days' spectacle.




Best place for photography: anywhere in the world except the Antarctic Circle.



VENUS BRIGHT AND BOLD ABOVE THE WEST AND NORTHWEST HORIZON

Venus is the brightest object in the sky after the Sun and Moon, so it's easy to see even in cities. Throughout the first half of 2023, it will shine bright, low over the west and northwest horizon after every sunset and at dusk (and into the night during spring). Several times in the year, the Moon will be close to Venus, and beautiful conjunctions will occur on February 22 (together with a bright Jupiter), March 24, April 23 and May 23. At that time, we will always see the Moon as a thin sickle close to Venus, and that will always be worth photographing, even in town!

 **Best place for photography:** whole world

CULMINATION OF LYRID METEOR SHOWER

The Lyrid meteor shower culminates around April 22 every year. The shower is not that busy: usually around 18 meteors an hour (though that can briefly increase to 90 an hour on rare occasions). But 2023 will bring the ideal conditions - it will culminate at 3 am on April 23, entirely undisturbed by the Moon. It's worth observing the meteor shower from 2 am to daybreak, a long way from any towns (at least 50 km away), ideally in the mountains or other elevated spots with a perfect view.



Best place for photography: northern hemisphere, plus up to 25° below the equator (mainly north of the globe).

Photographs: Petr Horálek/Opava Institute of Physics