

What to see in the Night Sky this month

May 2026

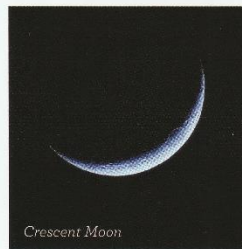
MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 9:45 am Full Moon: blue Moon 					1 6:23 pm Full Moon 	2 
3 Moon near Antares 	4 Moon near Antares (am) 	5 	6 Eta Aquarids (am) 	7 	8 	9 10:10 pm Last Quarter Moon 
10 	11 	12 	13 	14 Moon near Saturn (am) 	15 	16 9:01 pm New Moon 
17 	18 Moon near: Venus 	19 Moon between Venus and Jupiter 	20 Moon near Jupiter 	21 	22 Moon near Regulus 	23 12:11 pm First Quarter Moon 
24 	25 	26 Moon near Spica 	27 Moon near Spica 	28 	29 	30 Moon near Antares 

SPECIAL EVENTS

- **Night of 3/4 May:** the Moon glides below Antares.
- **6 May, early hours:** the maximum of the Eta Aquarid meteor shower is spoilt this year by bright moonlight.
- **14 May, 4.15 am:** look to the lower right of the Moon, just above the horizon, to spot

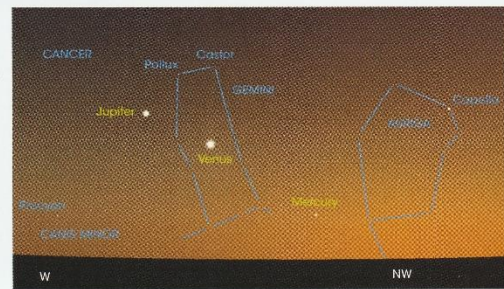
- Saturn reappearing in the morning sky.
- **18 May:** the crescent Moon and Venus form a lovely duo in the north-west after sunset, with Jupiter to the upper left (Chart 5a).
- **19 May:** the three brightest objects in the night sky converge in Gemini, as the Moon lies between Jupiter



- (left) and Venus (lower right), with Castor and Pollux above them (Chart 5a).
- **20 May:** you'll find Jupiter just below the crescent Moon, with Castor and Pollux to the right and Venus well down to the lower right (Chart 5a).
- **31 May:** the month's second Full Moon is a blue Moon (see Topic).

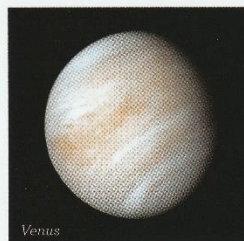


5a 18-20 May, 10.30 pm. The Moon passes Venus and Jupiter.



5b 31 May, 10 pm. Mercury joins Venus and Jupiter.

- **Venus** is at its most impressive this month, blazing at magnitude -3.9 in a totally dark sky and - by the end of May - setting as late as midnight. The crescent Moon lies near the Evening Star on 18 and 19 May (Chart 5a). During the last few days of May, look out for Venus inexorably homing in on Jupiter, in preparation for a close conjunction next month.



- From 20 May, Venus is joined by **Mercury**, well down to its lower right.

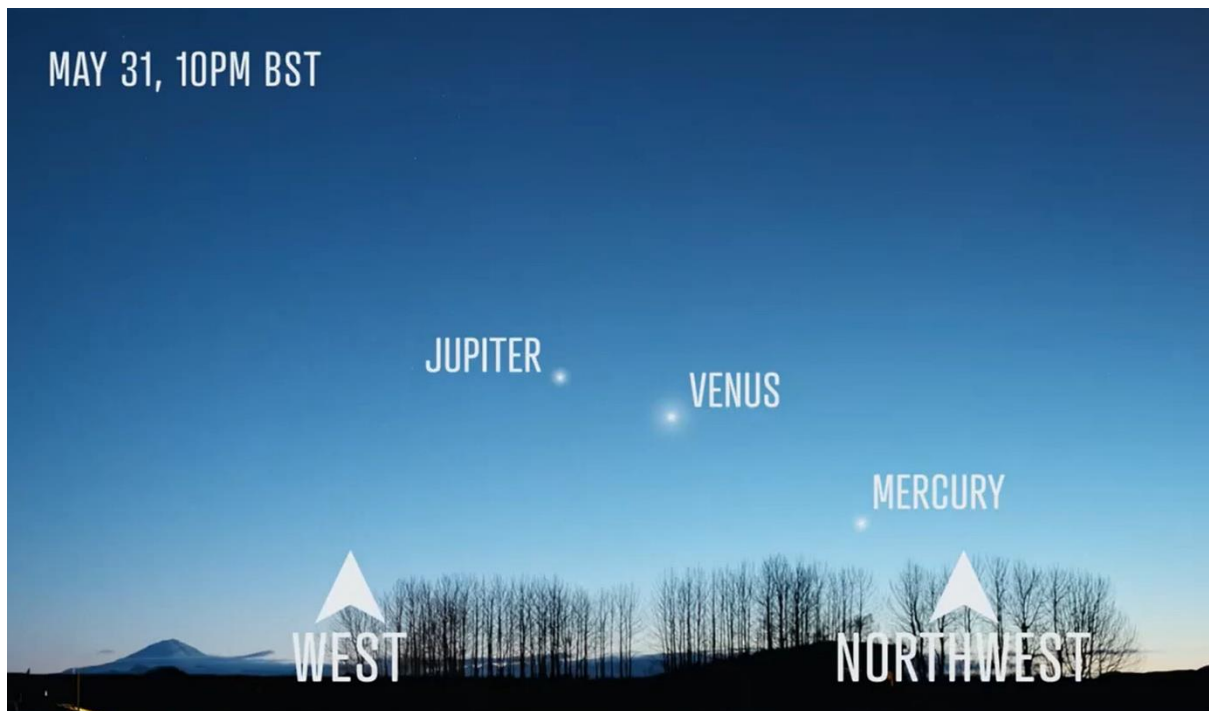
- By the end of the month, the innermost planet is shining at magnitude -0.6 and setting around 11 pm (Chart 5b).
- **Jupiter** (magnitude -1.9) lies in Gemini, to the lower left of the constellation's twin bright stars, Castor and Pollux. The giant planet sets about 1 am. The Moon lies to the right of the giant planet Jupiter on 19 May, and to its upper left on 20 May (Chart 5a).

- In the middle of May, **Saturn** begins to emerge from the twilight into the dawn sky in Pisces. It lies to the lower right of the crescent Moon on the morning of 14 May. By the end of the month, the ringworld is rising around 3 am.
- **Mars, Uranus and Neptune** are too close to the Sun to be seen this month.

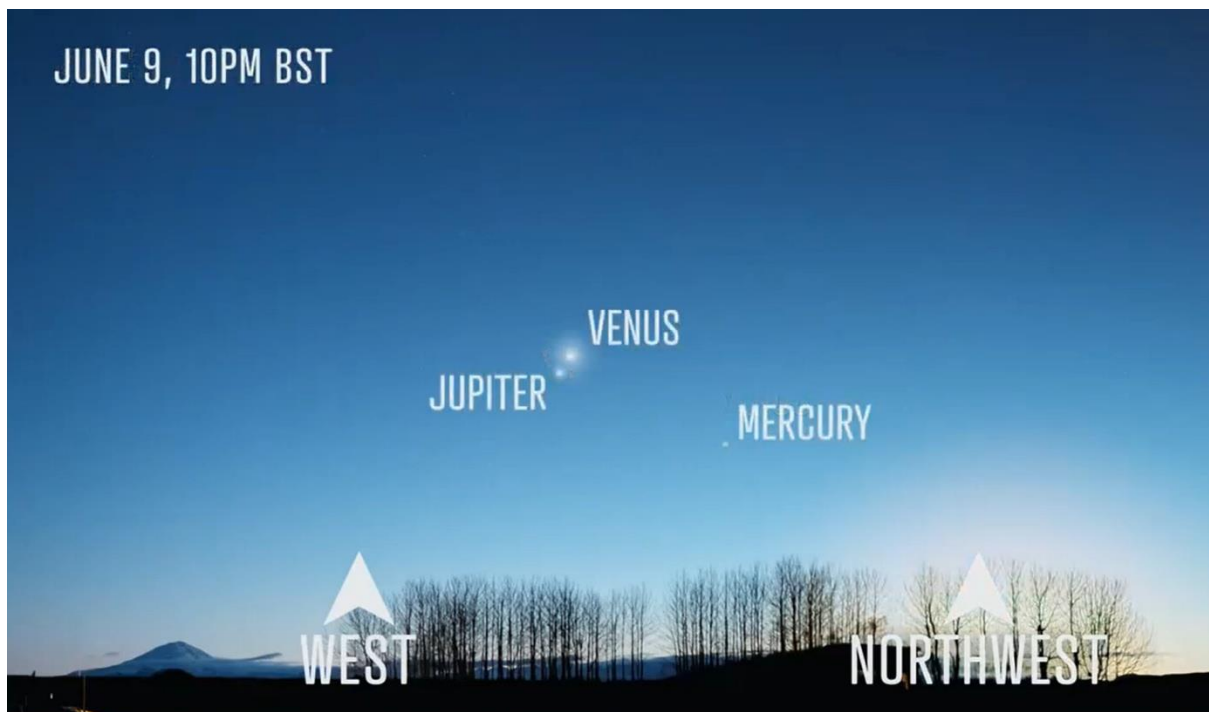
(source: Philip's Stargazing 2026)

There will be a planetary conjunction of Jupiter, Venus and Mercury at the end of May/beginning of June. It will be an opportunity to see the relative movements of the planets during that period

May 31st



Jun 9th



(source: BBC Sky at Night)

For more information see <https://yorkastro.org.uk/whats-up/whats-up-may-2026/>

June 2026

JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 11:00 am Last Quarter Moon	9 Venus near Jupiter	10 Moon near Saturn (am)	11	12	13 Moon near Mars (am)
14	15 3:54 am New Moon; Mercury E elongation	16 Moon near Mercury and Jupiter	17 Moon very near Venus	18	19 Venus near Praesepe; Moon near Regulus	20
21 10:55 pm First Quarter Moon; Summer Solstice	22	23 Moon near Spica	24	25	26	27 Moon near Antares
28	29 Mars near Pleiades	30 0:56 am Full Moon				

SPECIAL EVENTS

- **9 June:** a splendid conjunction of the two most brilliant planets, as Venus passes just 1.5 degrees from Jupiter, with Castor and Pollux to the right and Mercury to the lower right (Chart 6a).
- **10 June, before dawn:** Saturn lies below the crescent Moon.

- **13 June, before dawn:** look low on the horizon to the right of the crescent Moon to spot the Red Planet, Mars.
- **15 June:** Mercury at its greatest separation from the Sun.
- **16 June:** Mercury lies immediately below the crescent Moon (best seen

in binoculars), with Venus and Jupiter to the upper left (Chart 6b).

- **17 June:** Venus and the crescent Moon form a dazzling duo in the evening sky after sunset, less than a degree apart. Jupiter lies to the lower right, with Mercury further down on the horizon (Chart 6b).

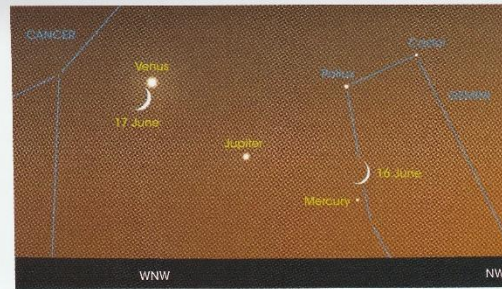
- **19 June:** Venus passes just above Praesepe.
- **21 June, 9:24 am:** Summer Solstice. The Sun reaches its most northerly point, so today is Midsummer's Day, with the longest day and the shortest night.
- **29 June:** Mars is 4 degrees below the Pleiades.



6a 9 June, 10:30 pm. Conjunction of Venus and Jupiter, with Mercury nearby.

- Staying above the horizon until midnight, **Venus** is glorious in the west at magnitude -4.0 . Moving inexorably upwards during the month, the Evening Star passes only 1.5 degree from Jupiter on 9 June (see Special Events and Chart 6a). The crescent Moon is very near Venus on 17 June (Chart 6b). On 19 June, you'll find Venus just above the pretty star cluster Praesepe – a

- lovely sight in binoculars or a low-power telescope.
- **Jupiter** is in the same neck of the woods as the Evening Star; some eight times fainter than Venus at magnitude -1.8 , it's still brighter than any of the stars. The giant planet lies in Gemini, in line with the constellation's main stars, Castor and Pollux, and sets about 11 pm.
- During the first half of June, you can find **Mercury**



6b 16-17 June, 10:30 pm. The Moon passes Mercury, Jupiter and very close to Venus.

- just above the horizon, to the lower right of Venus and Jupiter, and at its greatest elongation on 15 June. Setting around 11 pm, the innermost planet fades from magnitude -0.5 on 1 June to magnitude $+0.6$ on 16 June, when the crescent Moon lies right above Mercury (Chart 6b).
- **Saturn** is now prominent in the morning sky, rising about 2 am and shining at magnitude $+0.8$ on the

- border of Pisces and Cetus. The Moon is nearby on the morning of 10 June.
- **Neptune** (magnitude $+7.8$) lies to the right of Saturn, in Pisces, rising around 1:30 am.
- Mid-month, **Mars** appears in the north-eastern dawn twilight (about 3 am) in Taurus. It passes below the Pleiades on 29 June (see Special Events).
- **Uranus** is lost in the Sun's glare in June.

(source: Philip's Stargazing 2026)