



## Aspect of the sky from 50° 45' N : 2° 00' W at 21:00 UTC

Chart from [www.fourmilab.ch](http://www.fourmilab.ch)

Earth: is at Perihelion on Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> at 17:15, at a distance of 147 million km.

Lunar Phases Full: Jan 3 at 10:03; Last Qtr: Jan 10 at 15:48; New: Jan 18 at 19:52 and First Qtr: Jan 26 at 16:47.

Apsides: Perigee (closest) Jan 1<sup>st</sup> at 21:42, 360248, km, (32° 32''), and 29<sup>th</sup> at 21:45, 365871 km (32° 30''); Apogee (furthest) Jan 13<sup>th</sup> at 20:46, 405428 km (29° 35'').

Mercury (☿): is at 12° west on the 1<sup>st</sup>, and at superior conjunction on the 21<sup>st</sup>. It will not be seen this month.

Venus (♀): is at superior conjunction on the 6<sup>th</sup> and reaches 6.5° east by month's end so is not visible this month.

Mars (♂): is in solar conjunction on the 8<sup>th</sup> and will not be visible this month.

Jupiter (♃): is closest to the Earth on the 9<sup>th</sup>, and at opposition on the 10<sup>th</sup>, so is visible all night, mag.-2.7, near Castor and Pollux. You can't miss it! Moon is close on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> in the morning.

Saturn (♄): is now below the square of Pegasus, mag.1.1. Moon is 3° above Saturn on the 23<sup>rd</sup>

Uranus (♅): is in Taurus, below the Pleiades, diameter 3.6 arc seconds, mag. 5.7. Moon close on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Neptune (♆): is 3° NE of Saturn, diameter 2.3 arc seconds, mag. 7.8 It sets at 22:00 at month's end, as does Saturn.

The Quadrantids peak in early morning of the 4<sup>th</sup>, some bright, medium speed events.

The Moon, is near Regulus on the 6<sup>th</sup>, near Spica on the 11<sup>th</sup> (am) and near Antares on the 15<sup>th</sup> (am). It occults the stars in the upper part of the Pleiades on the 27<sup>th</sup>, at 21:45.

**Sunrise-set times:**

Date	Rise	Transit	Set	Date	Rise	Transit	Set
01 Jan 2026	08:09:59	12:11:34	16:13:21	21 Jan 2026	07:58:04	12:19:18	16:41:01
06 Jan 2026	08:08:54	12:13:50	16:19:02	26 Jan 2026	07:52:12	12:20:31	16:49:25
11 Jan 2026	08:06:31	12:15:55	16:25:39	31 Jan 2026	07:45:22	12:21:25	16:58:05
16 Jan 2026	08:02:52	12:17:45	16:33:02				

**Moonrise-set times:**

Date	Rise	Transit	Set	Date	Rise	Transit	Set
01 Jan 2026	13:38:47	22:40:33	06:31:04	21 Jan 2026	09:18:59	14:28:59	19:52:42
06 Jan 2026	20:22:28	02:44:25	10:09:26	26 Jan 2026	10:29:32	18:24:57	01:14:32
11 Jan 2026	01:20:44	06:22:19	11:12:21	31 Jan 2026	14:56:06	23:33:30	07:18:45
16 Jan 2026	06:59:53	10:21:11	13:43:14				

**B Persei, (Algol)** (Mag 2.1 to 3.4) – the visible minima are:

7<sup>th</sup> at 02:30; 9<sup>th</sup> at 23:20; 12<sup>th</sup> at 20:06 and 15<sup>th</sup> at 16:55.

**RZ Cassiopeiae** (mag 6.2 to 7.7) – the visible minima are:

4<sup>th</sup> at 22:38; 10<sup>th</sup> at 22:03; 16<sup>th</sup> at 21:30; 22<sup>nd</sup> at 20:55 and 28<sup>th</sup> at 20:22

Times for Lambda Tauri are not reliably available so no minima are offered this month.

For observation of the ISS during the month, log-in to <http://www.heavens-above.com>. See page 3, all evening passes, starting on the 11<sup>th</sup>

The next Durlston meeting will be on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Saturn will be low in the west, a crescent moon, as well as Jupiter, with Ganymede occulting at 10:23 pm and Winter constellations. These meetings are subject to favourable weather.

**Solar news**

No data is available for December. Keep looking at Spaceweather.com for any activity.

Timings for Jupiter's **Great Red Spot (GRS)**: this month with Jupiter at opposition, on the 10<sup>th</sup> . we have a full month of observation opportunities:

3<sup>rd</sup> at 21:15; 5<sup>th</sup> at 22:53; 8<sup>th</sup> at 20:22; 10<sup>th</sup> at 22:00; 12<sup>th</sup> at 23:38; 13<sup>th</sup> at 19:25; 15<sup>th</sup> at 21:05; 17<sup>th</sup> at 22:45; 20<sup>th</sup> at 20:14; 22<sup>nd</sup> at 21:50; 24<sup>th</sup> at 23:30; 25<sup>th</sup> at 19:20; 27<sup>th</sup> at 20:55; 29<sup>th</sup> at 22:35 and 30<sup>th</sup> at 18:25 Jupiter just risen, so low on ENE horizon.

**Meteor Activity:** The Quadrantids peak on the 4<sup>th</sup>, in the early hours, medium speed, bright coloured meteors. The Moon will be full unfortunately, so far from ideal.

Good observing. Robert Hatch.

1<sup>st</sup> January 2026

continued on page 3

# **Passes of the ISS for January.**

Date	Brightness mag)	Start		Highest point--		End-----		Pass type	
		Time	Alt. Az.	Time	Alt. Az.	Time	Alt. Az.		
11 Jan-0.9	18:57:37	10°	S	18:57:40	10°	S	18:57:40	10°	S visible
12 Jan-1.4	18:10:04	10°	SSE	18:11:09	12°	SE	18:11:09	12°	SE visible
13 Jan-1.9	18:55:42	10°	SW	18:57:27	24°	SSW	18:57:27	24°	SSW visible
14 Jan-2.3	18:07:18	10°	SSW	18:10:03	24°	SE	18:10:45	22°	SE visible
14 Jan-0.6	19:43:06	10°	WSW	19:43:38	14°	WSW	19:43:38	14°	SW visible
15 Jan-1.7	17:19:09	10°	S	17:21:21	17°	SE	17:23:34	10°	E visible
15 Jan-2.9	18:54:17	10°	WSW	18:56:51	46°	SW	18:56:51	46°	SW visible
16 Jan-3.2	18:05:31	10°	SW	18:08:43	45°	SSE	18:09:59	29°	E visible
16 Jan-0.8	19:42:01	10°	W	19:42:51	17°	W	19:42:51	17°	W visible
17 Jan-2.6	17:16:51	10°	SSW	17:19:53	32°	SSE	17:22:55	10°	E visible
17 Jan-3.4	18:53:03	10°	WSW	18:55:56	64°	W	18:55:56	64°	W visible
18 Jan-3.8	18:04:04	10°	WSW	18:07:24	77°	SSE	18:08:57	29°	E visible
18 Jan-0.9	19:40:50	10°	W	19:41:49	18°	W	19:41:49	18°	W visible
19 Jan-3.4	17:15:07	10°	WSW	17:18:25	58°	SSE	17:21:43	10°	ENE visible
19 Jan-3.5	18:51:46	10°	W	18:54:47	66°	NW	18:54:47	66°	NW visible
20 Jan-3.8	18:02:41	10°	W	18:06:02	79°	N	18:07:44	27°	ENE visible
20 Jan-1.0	19:39:28	10°	WNW	19:40:36	20°	WNW	19:40:36	20°	WNWvisible
21 Jan-3.8	17:13:35	10°	WSW	17:16:56	89°	SE	17:20:18	10°	ENE visible
21 Jan-3.7	18:50:22	10°	W	18:53:31	74°	NW	18:53:31	74°	NW visible
22 Jan-3.8	18:01:13	10°	W	18:04:34	74°	N	18:06:27	24°	E visible
22 Jan-1.2	19:37:57	10°	WNW	19:39:19	22°	W	19:39:19	22°	W visible
23 Jan-3.9	18:48:47	10°	WNW	18:52:09	79°	SSW	18:52:15	77°	SSE visible
24 Jan-3.8	17:59:36	10°	WNW	18:02:57	86°	NNE	18:05:13	19°	E visible
24 Jan-1.4	19:36:25	10°	W	19:38:05	23°	WSW	19:38:05	23°	WSWvisible
25 Jan-3.0	18:47:06	10°	W	18:50:20	47°	SSW	18:51:06	38°	SSE visible
26 Jan-3.4	17:57:49	10°	WNW	18:01:08	65°	SSW	18:04:13	12°	ESE visible
26 Jan-1.2	19:35:03	10°	W	19:37:06	17°	SW	19:37:06	17°	SW visible
27 Jan-1.8	18:45:26	10°	W	18:48:16	26°	SW	18:50:19	15°	SSE visible
28 Jan-2.3	17:55:57	10°	W	17:59:04	37°	SSW	18:02:11	10°	SE visible
29 Jan-0.7	18:44:17	10°	WSW	18:45:54	13°	SW	18:47:32	10°	SSW visible
30 Jan-1.0	17:54:14	10°	W	17:56:44	19°	SW	17:59:13	10°	S visible

