



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

Chart from www.fourmilab.ch

Earth: is at Perihelion on Jan 3rd 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 1st at 21:42, 360248, km, (32' 32"), and 29th at 21:45, 365871 km (32' 30"); Apogee (furthest) Jan 13th at 20:46, 405428 km (29' 35").

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 4th, some bright, medium speed events.

The **Moon**, is near Regulus on the 6th, near Spica on the 11th (am) and near Antares on the 15th (am). It occults the stars in the upper part of the **Pleiades** on the 27th, 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:

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

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

4th at 22:38; 10th at 22:03; 16th at 21:30; 22nd at 20:55 and 28th 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 11th

The next Durlston meeting will be on Saturday the 24th 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 10th. we have a full month of observation opportunities:

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

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

Good observing. Robert Hatch.

1st January 2026

Passes of the ISS for January.

Date	Brightness mag)	Time	Start Alt.	Az.	Highest point Time	Alt.	Az.	End Time	Alt.	Az.	Pass type
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	18vv: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°	WNW	visible	
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°	WSW	visible	
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	

