



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

Chart from www.fourmilab.ch 26F

Lunar Phases: Full April 2nd at 03:12; Last Qtr: April 10th at 05:51; April 17th at 12:52 and First Qtr: April 24 at 03:32.

Apsides: Apogee (furthest) April 7th at 08:30, 404970 Km (29' 26"); Perigee (closest) April 19th at 06:55, 361630 Km, (33' 10")

Mercury (♿): starts the month as a morning star max western elongation of 27.8° on the 4th. but Mercury is on the very shallow eastern ecliptic, and will probably not be observed. Moon near on the 15th and 16th.

Venus (♀): is an evening star, ranging from 20° to 28° elongation east during the month, mag. -3.9. Venus is very near Uranus and below the Pleiades on the 23rd. and near the Hyades on the 30th. Moon is close on the 18th and 19th.

Mars (♂): is technically a morning star but will be too close to the eastern horizon on a very shallow ecliptic to be visible by dawn this month. See the note in Saturn's entry.

Jupiter (♃): moves east in Gemini during the month, mag-2.0. and sets at 01.00 on the 30th. Moon near on the 23rd.

Saturn (♄): will not be visible as it is only just above the eastern horizon at dawn by month's end, mag. 0.9. and will be lost in the solar glare. **NOTE:** The planets Mercury, Mars, Saturn and Neptune are all lined up to the west of the Sun by month's end but this configuration won't be seen due to it being below a very shallow morning ecliptic, and dawn. Note also that Mars, Saturn and Mercury are all in a vertical line (<2° separation) on the 20th below the eastern horizon at dawn. Info only!

Uranus (♅): is closing in on the Sun during the month and is 20° east of the Sun by month's end. May be visible after sunset, 10° above the western horizon, mag. 5.8,- telescope required! Note Venus is close by on the 23rd, below the Pleiades.

Neptune (♆): is a morning star but again, will not be observable being too faint in the morning sky, (mag 7.9) despite being at 37° western elongation.

The April Lyrids, peak on the 22nd/23rd with the best viewing early on the 23rd after the Moon has set at 2.0 am. These meteors, from Comet Thatcher, often leave dusty trails

The Moon is close to Antares on the 7th (am) Pleiades on the 19th and very near Regulus on the 25th.

Sun rise-set times:

Date	Rise	Transit	Set	Date	Rise	Transit	Set
01 Apr 2026	05:44:13	12:11:50	18:40:29	21 Apr 2026	05:01:35	12:06:41	19:12:52
06 Apr 2026	05:33:14	12:10:23	18:48:34	26 Apr 2026	04:51:43	12:05:47	19:20:55
11 Apr 2026	05:22:24	12:09:01	18:56:40	01 May 2026	04:42:19	12:05:05	19:28:53
16 Apr 2026	05:11:50	12:07:46	19:04:47				

Moon rise-set times:

Date	Rise	Transit	Set	Date	Rise	Transit	Set
01 Apr 2026	18:22:05	--:--:--	05:19:06	21 Apr 2026	07:00:30	16:06:24	00:05:58
06 Apr 2026	--:--:--	03:04:24	06:44:56	26 Apr 2026	13:40:05	20:36:37	03:02:13
11 Apr 2026	03:13:48	07:17:13	11:29:33	01 May 2026	19:50:02	--:--:--	04:06:01
16 Apr 2026	04:30:28	11:11:05	18:11:29				

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

8th at 23:14; 11th at 20:00 both low in NW sky, and 26th at 04:05 - low in NE

RZ Cassiopeiae (mag 6.2 to 7.7) – the visible 7 minima are:

3^{6th} at 23:10; 12th at 22:35; 18th at 22:00; 24th at 21:30 and 30th at 20:55 most in the sky area to the north of Polaris.

Lambda Tauri (mag 3.4 to 3.9) no visible minima this month star below the horizon at night.

Keep a watching brief for **T Corona Borealis**. It's been out of the astro news just recently!

For observation of the ISS during the month, log-in to <http://www.heavens-above.com>. Morning passes start on the 19th, none before that date.

The next Durlston event will be on Saturday April 25th from 8.15pm. The Moon, Jupiter spring constellations and galaxies will be on view. There will also be an astronomical talk in the centre.

Solar news

There has been some solar activity during March with some high Kp indexes. Keep watching. The Sun's activity is beginning to tail off now.

Jupiter's **Great Red Spot (GRS)**: the following list shows visible transits.

1st at 23:52; 2nd at 19:44; 4th at 21:23; 6th at 23:00; 9th at 20:30; 11th at 22:10; 13th at 23:50; 14th at 10:40; 16th at 21:20; 18th at 23:00; 21st at 20:30; 23rd at 22:10; 25th at 23:45; 26th at 19:40; 28th at 21:20 and 30th at 22:55.

Meteor Activity: The June Lyrids peak on the 15th/ 16th a very minor shower – 1-2 mph. The Moon is near first quarter, on this date this year, so little if any lunar interference, but it may be that you may see more sporadic meteors than shower members as noted above!

Good observing Robert Hatch

01 April 2026

Passes of the ISS for April.

Date	Brightness (mag)	Start		Highest point			End			Pass type	
		Time	Alt.	Az.	Time	Alt.	Az.	Time	Alt.		Az.
19 Apr	-1.2	05:12:12	10°	S	05:14:04	14°	SE	05:15:56	10°	ESE	visible
21 Apr	-2.3	05:12:15	10°	SSW	05:15:12	29°	SSE	05:18:10	10°	E	visible
22 Apr	-1.8	04:26:01	15°	S	04:27:40	20°	SE	04:30:15	10°	E	visible
23 Apr	-1.4	03:40:05	14°	SE	03:40:10	14°	SE	03:42:00	10°	ESE	visible
23 Apr	-3.4	05:13:06	10°	SW	05:16:25	55°	SSE	05:19:44	10°	ENE	visible
24 Apr	-3.0	04:27:01	22°	SSW	04:28:45	40°	SSE	04:31:56	10°	E	visible
25 Apr	-2.5	03:40:58	28°	SSE	03:41:06	28°	SSE	03:44:03	10°	E	visible
25 Apr	-3.7	05:14:17	10°	WSW	05:17:39	88°	SSE	05:21:03	10°	ENE	visible
26 Apr	-1.4	02:54:50	16°	ESE	02:54:50	16°	ESE	02:56:02	10°	E	visible
26 Apr	-3.8	04:27:45	21°	WSW	04:29:53	71°	SSE	04:33:15	10°	ENE	visible
27 Apr	-3.6	03:41:35	47°	SSW	03:42:06	54°	SSE	03:45:25	10°	ENE	visible
28 Apr	-2.4	02:55:21	30°	ESE	02:55:21	30°	ESE	02:57:32	10°	E	visible
28 Apr	-3.7	04:28:16	15°	W	04:31:01	81°	N	04:34:24	10°	E	visible
29 Apr	-1.0	02:09:05	13°	E	02:09:05	13°	E	02:09:32	10°	E	visible
29 Apr	-3.9	03:42:00	39°	WSW	03:43:09	87°	SSE	03:46:32	10°	ENE	visible
30 Apr	-3.5	02:55:41	61°	ESE	02:55:41	61°	ESE	02:58:38	10°	ENE	visible
30 Apr	-3.6	04:28:44	10°	W	04:32:06	74°	N	04:35:29	10°	E	visible
1 May	-1.7	02:09:21	22°	E	02:09:21	22°	E	02:10:43	10°	E	visible
1 May	-3.6	03:42:16	24°	W	03:44:10	75°	N	03:47:33	10°	E	visible
2 May	-3.8	02:55:53	70°	WNW	02:56:13	82°	N	02:59:35	10°	E	visible
2 May	-3.7	04:29:42	10°	WNW	04:33:05	86°	N	04:36:27	10°	E	visible

More passes will be listed in May's notes.