



Community Observatory St Martin's on Scilly

August 2024

What to see in Scilly's skies this month

<p>All month: Milky Way That cloudy arc of light that streaks over Scilly is our galaxy, the Milky Way, and you're looking in to the heart of it. Scilly's almost total lack of light pollution means that on a clear night, it's clearly visible with the naked eye.</p>	<p>5 August: Venus Make the most of our low horizons on Scilly by looking for Venus, low but bright in this evening's twilight, above the WNW horizon. A Daymark sunset beckons! Can you also spot the thinnest of new crescent Moons nearby?</p>	<p>August constellations Directly above, the Summer Triangle: Vega (in Lyra), Deneb (in Cygnus) and Altair (in Aquila). The Milky Way runs through Cygnus, aka the Northern Cross. Try to find dinky Delphinus, the dolphin, nearby.</p>
<p>14-15 August: Mars & Jupiter This month, the planets put on quite a show. In the dark mornings of 14/15 August you've a chance to observe Mars and Jupiter in conjunction, appearing very close in the sky with the naked eye or binoculars.</p>	<p>9-15 August: Perseids  Ooh - did you spot one?! The spectacular Perseid meteor shower reaches its peak. The first quarter Moon's position means that it shouldn't interfere too much, but still the best viewing is after Moonset around 23:00.</p>	<p>21 August: Saturn 'disappears' Saturn appears to disappear behind a nearly full perigee Moon - this is a really rare event to observe! Plan ahead and set your alarm clock early today! Saturn will pass behind the Moon at 04:28, reappearing at 05:13.</p>
<p>26 August: Moon and Pleiades The last quarter Moon crosses star cluster Pleiades in the early hours. Don't fancy staying up late? Head outside after dusk; enjoy some slow time with our dark skies. Even if cloudy - experience true darkness!</p>	<p>31 August: Saturn Saturn is now climbing higher in the sky, earlier. Visible with the naked eye, the famously ringed planet appears yellowy. Binoculars will reveal more shape. Rings are nearly side on at the moment so appear thinner. Due South.</p>	<p>Next month: It continues to get dark earlier, for more favourable dark sky watching. Jupiter and Saturn are well placed in the sky for evening viewing - join us at the observatory for some big telescope 'wow' moments!</p>

St Martin's Observatory opening times

Tuesdays: 21:00-22:00 *all-weather; pre-booking essential*

Fridays: 14:00-16:00 *cloud permitting; drop-ins*

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