



## Community Observatory St Martin's on Scilly

# May 2022

## What to see in Scilly's skies this month

<p><b>1 May: Jupiter &amp; Venus</b> Bright Jupiter and even brighter Venus appear close in the dawn sky, from about 5am, on the eastern horizon. Venus is often known as the morning star / evening star, because it's visible (and very bright) at dawn and dusk.</p>	<p><b>3 May: New Moon</b> The Moon isn't visible in the night sky at the start and end of May, meaning extra nighttime darkness! This is a great time for deep-sky stargazing, or to experience the true darkness of Scilly's skies. You'll be amazed how many stars you can see!</p>	<p><b>May constellations</b> Boötes, the herdsman, forms a kite-shape high in the sky: find its bright red giant, Arcturus. Nearby to the left, see if you can spot small constellation Corona Borealis, a semi-circle of stars that forms the 'northern crown'.</p>
<p><b>6 May: Eta Aquariids</b> The Eta Aquariid meteor shower, from the remains of Halley's comet burning up on colliding with the Earth's atmosphere, reaches its peak this morning. Enjoy moonless skies to catch 1 every minute or so.</p> 	<p><b>16 May: Lunar eclipse</b> There's a total lunar eclipse this morning, visible low about the southwest horizon. Plan to get an early night on 15 May, then set your alarms for 3am. The event starts around 3.30am with totality reached by 4.30am.</p>	<p><b>18 May: Jupiter, Mars (&amp; Neptune)</b> You may have to imagine it, but farthest planet Neptune appears close to bright Mars in the morning sky. Alternatively Jupiter's very visible close by: contrast Mars' distinct rusty hue with Jupiter's pale tan.</p>
<p><b>25 May: Moon, Mars &amp; Jupiter</b> The 25% lit crescent Moon, together with orange Mars and bright Jupiter, form a right-angled triangle in the eastern sky in the morning sky just before dawn. All month, the best of the planets is for early risers!</p>	<p><b>All month: Galaxies</b> May is one of the best months for spotting distant galaxies. Leo &amp; Virgo are rich deep-sky areas to view with a telescope. Leo's collection includes barred spiral galaxy M66, the Sombrero Galaxy, M104, can be found in Virgo. Hope for clear skies!</p>	<p><b>Next Month:</b> <b>Summer solstice</b> on 21 June = short nights and late sunsets. If you visit us in June, bear in mind it won't get fully dark until very late. <b>Noctilucent cloud</b> season starts. These clouds appear to glow in the sky 90-120 minutes after sundown..</p>

## St Martin's Observatory opening times

Tuesdays: 20.00-21.00 or 21.00-22.00 *pre-booking essential*

Fridays: 14.00-16.00 *drop-ins*

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