



Community Observatory St Martin's on Scilly

September 2024

What to see in Scilly's skies this month

<p>All month: Milky Way Take every chance you get on a clear Scilly night to marvel at the Milky Way, arcing above, before it becomes less visible in the late Autumn. Our absence of light pollution gives you amazing views into the heart of our spiral galaxy.</p>	<p>8 August: Saturn at opposition Saturn at its biggest and brightest this month - aka the best time to spot! Pale yellow with the naked eye. Use binoculars or a 'scope to pick up those famous rings - appearing thin as we are viewing nearly side-on.</p>	<p>September constellations Now's a good time to reacquaint yourself with the Plough as a tool to help you navigate the night sky. Use it to find Regulus, Arcturus, Spica and of course Polaris, the noted but not-so-bright north star.</p>
<p>18 September: Partial lunar eclipse September's Full Moon, known as the Harvest Moon, also happens to undergo a small partial lunar eclipse! Set your alarms - maximum is at 03:44, but well worth this fantastic event if you can forego a little sleep!</p>	<p>All month: Planets Planets are back! Jupiter and Saturn will be fantastic to view this month and into autumn. Jupiter rises after 23:30, getting earlier as the month progresses. September is the best month of the year to view Saturn, its rings and moons.</p>	<p>22 September: Moon and Pleiades Autumn Equinox in the UK - day and night the same length. Tonight, a waning gibbous Moon appears close to open cluster the Pleiades, in Taurus. Binoculars reveal the beauty of this fuzzy looking group of stars!</p>
<p>23 September: Moon and Jupiter The just-over-half waning Moon and Jupiter sit very close (about a palm's width apart) in tonight's sky from 23:00, shortly after they rise. Elnath, in Taurus, is the bright star above the Moon. Naked eye or binoculars.</p>	<p>30 September: Jupiter and M1 Grab your binoculars and set your sights on Jupiter just WNW of M1, the Crab Nebula. The Crab Nebula is 11 Light Years across and, located in constellation Taurus, some 6500 LY from Earth!</p>	<p>6 - 11 Oct: Scilly Dark Skies Week! This year's event is centred on nightly stargazing at the observatory; plus a couple of talks and Workshops. See QR code for info.</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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