



Community Observatory St Martin's on Scilly

August 2021

What to see in Scilly's skies this month

<p>2 August: Saturn at opposition</p> <p>The best time to observe ringed Saturn! Its rings will appear particularly bright. Opposition is when a planet's positioned in the opposite part of the sky to the Sun, so appears brighter and larger than usual.</p>	<p>8 August: New Moon</p> <p>The Moon is not visible so that means Scilly's dark skies will be at their darkest. The days around New Moon will be your best for finding constellations and locating the Milky Way. Allow 20 minutes for your eyes to adjust.</p>	<p>August constellations</p> <p><i>What we're looking at...</i></p> <p>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 Delphinus, the dolphin, nearby.</p>
<p>10 August: Venus & Moon</p> <p>Venus is low in the western sky after sunset. Tonight the waxing crescent Moon appears close to the bright planet. This month Venus shines around mag. -4.0 (the lower the number the brighter the object!).</p>	<p>12 August: Perseids</p>  <p>The annual Perseid meteor shower reaches its showy peak with favourable conditions. Peak predicted for 20:00-23:00. Moon sets at 23:35 so won't interfere. Expect 100-plus dazzling meteors per hour!</p>	<p>19 August: Jupiter at opposition</p> <p>The best time to view bright giant Jupiter this month. Look above the southern horizon, after midnight. Jupiter appears pale and creamy with the naked eye; magnification will reveal its striped atmosphere.</p>
<p>21 August: Full Moon</p> <p>Tonight's Full Moon is actually the Moon at opposition so it will appear bigger and brighter than normal! A wonderful object to gaze upon through binoculars, revealing its cratered surface and 'seas' - dark basaltic plains.</p>	<p>All month: Milky Way</p> <p>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>Next month:</p> <p>It continues to get dark earlier, for more favourable dark sky watching.</p> <p>Distant planet Neptune at opposition - powerful telescopes needed to look out for this tiny blue dot.</p>

St Martin's Observatory opening times

Tuesdays: 20.00-20.50 or 21.00-21.50 *pre-booking essential*

Fridays: 14.00-16.00 *drop-ins*

Email cosmosscilly@gmail.com to book

www.cosmosscilly.co.uk

