

ASTRONOMY CALENDAR

Autumn 2024

DAY	TIME	EVENTS	
MARCH 2024			
10	~20:00	MOON PHASE	NEW MOON, Moon at perigee (356,895km)
14	~20:00		Moon near Jupiter
15	~20:00		Moon near Matariki
17	~17:00	MOON PHASE	FIRST QUARTER
19	~21:00		Moon near Pollux
22		CONJUNCTION	Just before sunrise, there will be a conjunction of Venus and Saturn low in the eastern skies. Mars will be a little higher than both.
22		EQUINOX	Autumn Equinox (Southern Hemisphere)
24	~04:30	APOGEE	Moon at apogee (406,306km)
25	~20:00	MOON PHASE	FULL MOON
30	~23:30		Moon near Antares
APRIL 2024			
1			Mercury retrograde motion begins
2	~16:00	MOON PHASE	LAST QUARTER
6	~05:30		Moon near Mars
7	~05:30		Moon near Saturn
8		TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE	Total Solar Eclipse crosses the continental USA. Not visible from New Zealand, but another reminder that we will have one in mid-2028. Best viewing will be in Otago.
8	~06:00	PERIGEE	Moon near Venus, Moon at perigee (358,841km)
9	~06:00	MOON PHASE	NEW MOON
11		CONJUNCTION	Just before sunrise, there will be a conjunction of Mars and Saturn low in the eastern skies.
15	~20:00		Moon near Pollux
16	~07:00	MOON PHASE	FIRST QUARTER
20	~14:00	APOGEE	Moon at apogee (405,650km)
21		COMET	Comet Pons-Brooks makes its closest approach to the Sun. Best Southern Hemisphere views will be after this date, as it comes back out from behind the Sun (perhaps a month later). Visibility: Not ideally placed for us to see, likely to be too close to the horizon / washed out by sunlight.
23	~20:00		Moon near Spica
24	~12:00	MOON PHASE	FULL MOON
25			Mercury retrograde motion ends
MAY 2024			
1	~23:00	MOON PHASE	LAST QUARTER
2			Pluto retrograde motion begins
4	~04:00		Moon near Saturn
5		METEOR SHOWER	Eta Aquariids meteor shower reaches its peak and the Southern Hemisphere is the best place to view this. The Moon should be just a sliver at most, providing minimal interference. It will likely be the best meteor shower for us this year, particularly as the Geminids in mid-December will coincide with a near-full Moon.
5	~04:00		Moon near Mars and Neptune
6	~05:30		Moon near Mercury, Moon at perigee (363,146km)
8	~15:00	MOON PHASE	NEW MOON
13	~19:00		Moon near Pollux
15	~00:00	MOON PHASE	FIRST QUARTER
18	~07:00	APOGEE	Moon at apogee (405,650km)
20	~19:00		Moon near Spica
24	~19:00	MOON PHASE	FULL MOON, Moon near Antares
31	~05:00	MOON PHASE	LAST QUARTER

