

The Spring Night Sky – February, March and April 2018

All data sourced from CyberSky 5

The coming of Spring heralds lighter nights and longer days. This limits some of the objects and constellations we can see but there are still some 'jewels' to be found in the night sky.

February 2018 – all times in GMT

The Moon

Last Quarter 07/02/18 at 1553
New Moon on 15/02/18 at 2105
First Quarter on 23/02/18 at 0808
Full Moon on 02/03/18 at 0051

The Planets

Planet Events on 15/02/2018

	Sun	Mercury	Venus	Moon	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn	Uranus
Rise:	0726	0739	0754	0724	0315	0124	0504	0906
Transit:	1221	1218	1258	1206	0709	0548	0853	1600
Set:	1717	1658	1803	1655	1103	1012	1242	2254

In Summary

Mercury and Venus are too close to the Sun to observe this month. Mars is a morning object visible in twilight for about 2 hours. Jupiter is also a morning object but visible for about 4 hours. Saturn is a challenging object only visible for about 1 hour in morning twilight. Uranus is an evening object visible for about 3 hours after sunset.

The Stars at 10pm BST

North – Cassiopeia and Cepheus are nicely placed with the two Bears. Cygnus and Hercules are low down

East – Gemini is high up with Leo and Cancer nicely placed. Virgo is just beginning to rise

South – Auriga is high up. Orion and Monoceros are nicely placed. Canis major and Lepus are low down

West – Taurus and Perseus are high up. Andromeda is nicely placed. Pisces and Pegasus are low down

Meteor Showers

There are no bright meteor showers this month.

Comets

There are no bright comets in the sky in February

March 2018 – all times in GMT

The Moon

Full moon Fri 02/03/2018 01:51
Last quarter Fri 09/03/2018 12:19
New Moon Sat 17/03/2018 13:11
First Quarter Sat 24/03/18 at 15:35

The Planets

Planet Events on 15/03/2018

	Sun	Mercury	Venus	Moon	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn	Uranus
Rise:	0622	0638	0655	0553	0248	2333	0322	0718
Transit:	1216	1320	1316	1047	0630	0401	0701	1414
Set:	1811	2004	1938	1549	1012	0824	1101	2111

In Summary

Mercury and Venus are still too close to the Sun to safely observe. Mars is a morning object visible for about 1 hour in twilight. Jupiter is a morning object and will be well placed at around 0300. Saturn is a challenging object visible in twilight from around 0500. Uranus will be visible low in the west after sunset.

The Stars at 10pm BST

North – The two bears are high up. Cepheus and Draco are nicely placed. Cygnus, Lyra and Hercules are low down

East – Leo and Coma Berenices are nicely placed. Virgo is low down. You can also find Hydra, Crater and there is Corvus near the horizon

South – Virgo, Leo, Cancer and Gemini are nicely placed. Orion, Canis major, Monoceros and Lepus are low down

West – Gemini, Auriga, Perseus, Orion and Canis Major are nicely placed. Pisces is near the horizon

Meteor Showers

There are no major meteor showers in March

Comets

There are no bright comets visible in March 2018

April 2018 – all times in BST

The Moon

Last quarter	Sun 08/04/2018 08:17
New moon	Mon 16/04/2018 02:56
First quarter	Sun 22/04/2018 22:45
Full moon	Mon 30/04/2018 01:58

The Planets

Planet Events on 15/04/2018

	Sun	Mercury	Venus	Moon	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn	Uranus
Rise:	0608	0541	0653	0626	0300	2219	0223	0619
Transit:	1307	1151	1438	1246	0642	0251	0613	1319
Set:	2008	1801	2225	1920	1025	0718	1004	2019

In Summary

Mercury is still too close to the Sun. Venus will be visible low in the west in the evening twilight for about 1 hour. Mars is a morning object visible in twilight. Jupiter will be visible from around midnight until just after 4am. Saturn is a morning object visible from around 0400 until dawn. Uranus is in conjunction with the Sun and not visible this month.

The Stars at 10pm BST

North – Perseus, Cepheus and Cassiopeia are nicely placed with the two Bears high up

East – Draco, Bootes and Virgo are nicely placed. Lyra, Hercules and Serpens Caput are near the horizon

South – Virgo, Leo, Cancer and Gemini are all nicely placed. Corvus, Crater, Sextans and Hydra are near the horizon

West – Monoceros, Canis Minor, Gemini, Auriga, Perseus and Cassiopeia are all nicely placed.

Canis Major, Orion and Taurus are all near the horizon with Venus in Aries just setting

Meteor Showers

There is the April Lyrids – active between the 16th and 25th of April – The Moon will be new on the 16th and waxing thereafter, so may interfere with the maximum of this shower for a while during the night – Lyra is visible all night but early morning is best for this shower. On the 20th the Moon will set at 0030 so there is a window of about 3h30m to see the shooting stars before dawn starts to show its hand.

Comets

There are no bright comets in April 2018

Upcoming events for the Summer Night Sky

May 2018 Mercury and Venus are too close to the Sun to observe. Mars, Saturn and Uranus are morning objects with Jupiter visible for most of the night.

June 2018 Mercury is low in the west at sunset. Venus is an evening object. Mars and Saturn are morning objects. Jupiter is visible for most of the night.

July 2018 Venus is low in the west at sunset. Mars is visible for most of the night. Jupiter and Saturn are evening objects. Uranus is a morning object