



# What's in the Sky March 2024

## **March 7: Venus Moon Conjunction**

Look to the East just before sunrise, approximately 6:00 AM to see Venus very low on the horizon with a sliver of a crescent Moon above and to the right.

## **March 10: New Moon and Daylight Savings Time Begins**

Time to spring forward 1 hour.

## **March 14: Jupiter Moon Conjunction**

Once it is dark look to the West to see the Moon with Jupiter just three degrees above it.

## **March 19: Spring Equinox**

Spring begins with the vernal equinox on the evening of the 19th at 10:06 PM Central Daylight Time.

## **March 21: Venus Saturn Conjunction**

Look very low in the east just as the Sun is about to rise and you might see Venus and Saturn very close to each other. But be careful, as the Sun will rise very shortly thereafter.

## **March 22: Comet 12P/Pons-Brooks**

Comet 12P/Pons-Brooks is 30 days from reaching its closest approach to the Sun. The comet might become visible in the NW sky with the naked eye or a small telescope—it might even be visible during totality of the total solar eclipse on April 8.

## **March 25: The Full Worm Moon**

Because of its timing, the Moon will appear full on both Sunday and Monday night. It rises Sunday at 6:39 PM and Monday at 7:34 PM.

## **March 25: Penumbral Lunar Eclipse**

A penumbral lunar eclipse occurs when the Sun, Earth, and the Moon are not perfectly aligned. When this happens the Earth blocks out some of the Sun's light from directly reaching the Moon's surface. This year the Earth's shadow will cover only a very small edge of the Moon. So small it may look just like another full Moon. Or it may make the full moon look a little lopsided. This unusual eclipse will reach maximum at 2:12 AM.

## **March 29: Venus Saturn Mars Conjunction**

Look to the East minutes before sunrise and you can see Saturn again low on the horizon halfway between Venus and Mars.

## **Planets**

Venus, Mercury, and Mars rise in the pre-dawn sky and set during the day at the beginning of March. By the end of the month Venus and Mars will continue to rise predawn and set late in the day. Initially, Mercury will be a daytime planet. But will be shining fairly brightly low in the West after the setting Sun for a few weeks before disappearing in April. Jupiter can still be seen after sunset. Saturn will be somewhat difficult to see rising slightly before the Sun and setting during the daytime. By the end of the month Saturn will rise pre-dawn and a little easier to see. Uranus will be rising in the morning and setting late at night but will be difficult to see. Neptune will rise and set with the sun all month and extremely difficult to see.