

What is in the Sky May 2022



May 15 – 16

**Total Lunar
Eclipse**

May 1st – 18th: The Planetary Pre-Dawn Party

Mars, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, and Mercury line up in the pre-dawn sky. On the 18th, Neptune joins the party. Just look east-southeast 60 – 90 minutes before sunrise each morning. Jupiter and Venus will be the two brightest planets in the sky.

May 4th - 6th: Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower

Originating from debris of comet Halley. Known to provide 20-60 meteors per hour during peak activity and under ideal conditions. The Eta Aquarids shower is best seen in the Southern Hemisphere but you may still see it in the Northern Hemisphere just before twilight near the southeastern horizon.

May 15th -16th: Total Lunar Eclipse - The Flower/Blood Moon

During a lunar eclipse, our moon passes through the Earth's shadow, turning the moon a rusty brown, red, or copper color. The full moon in May is known as the Flower Moon, symbolic the May flower blooms. Eclipsed moons are often called a Blood Moon due to the color at full eclipse.

I am crossing my fingers we have a clear sky this night, as this will be the last **total** lunar eclipse viewable in our area until March 2025. We will have a **partial** lunar eclipse November 2022.

Timeline for the Dallas Area: Times shown in local time (CDT)

Duration:	5 hours, 18 minutes, 44 seconds
Duration of totality:	1 hour, 24 minutes, 52 seconds
Penumbral begins:	May 15 at 8:32:05 pm
Partial begins:	May 15 at 9:27:52 pm
Full begins:	May 15 at 10:29:03 pm
Maximum:	May 15 at 11:11:28 pm
Full ends:	May 15 at 11:53:55 pm
Partial ends:	May 16 at 12:55:07 am
Penumbral ends:	May 16 at 1:50:49 am

Tips to photograph a lunar eclipse. <https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/lunar-eclipse-photography.html>

MAY 30th - 31st: – Tau Herculid Meteor Shower

The Schwassmann-Wachmann 3 comet, began fracturing in space in 1995, leaving debris in its path. On May 30th-31st, Earth is expected to pass through the debris field. Usually, the Tau Herculid shower produces only a few meteors per hour. But its long-term prospects have changed. Now, meteor specialists are predicting a dramatic outburst at the end of May 2022. The predictions are uncertain, no one really knows for sure. However, the specialists do agree that whatever occurs will take place around 11pm - midnight on May 30th. It will be in position to be visible to all contiguous U.S. states if viewed through very dark, cloudless skies. Our Moon will be in the New phase on this night, so moonlight will not interfere. The shower's radiant will be high in the sky. Meteor showers are usually strongest between midnight and dawn.