

Spring 2025

Buhl Planetarium & Observatory ASTRONOMICAL CALENDAR & STAR CHART

CARNEGIE
**SCIENCE
CENTER**



Night sky from Pittsburgh, PA 10 p.m. EST mid-April

SKYWATCH

The 2025 calendar is live! Buy tickets to upcoming SkyWatch events at CarnegieScienceCenter.org/SkyWatch.

Presented by



TOP TEN SKYGAZING PICKS

March 1 – Conjunction Moon and Venus

March 14 – Total lunar eclipse

March 23 – Saturn ring plane crossing

April 1 – Close approach of crescent Moon and Pleiades

April 22 – Lyrid meteor shower

April 23 – Pinwheel Galaxy (M101) in Ursa Major, highest point at midnight

April 24 – Venus at brightest in 2025 morning apparition. Moon and Venus conjunction with Saturn nearby – morning view

May 2 – Asteroid Vesta at opposition – binocular event early morning

May 3 – Conjunction Mars and Moon

SPRING PLANET VISIBILITIES (evening)



Mercury: Early March. West after sunset.



Venus: Early March.



Mars: March, April, early May.



Jupiter: March, April, early May.

MOON PHASES KEY

New Moon ● First Quarter ◐ Full Moon ○ Third Quarter ◑

MOON PHASES

March 6: ◐ 14: ○ 22: ◑ 29: ●

April 4: ◐ 12: ○ 20: ◑ 27: ●

May 4: ◐ 12: ○ 20: ◑ 26: ●

WHAT'S UP?

Total Lunar Eclipse

Late night/early morning observers will be treated to a total lunar eclipse Fri., March 14. The Moon will start to darken at 1:10 a.m. Totality will take place from 2:36 a.m. to 3:31 a.m. This is the point when the Moon appears in hues of dark red. By 4:48 a.m., the Moon will have moved fully out of the deepest part of Earth's shadow, the umbra. As the final phase of the event ends, the Moon will again beam as the full "Worm Moon" of March.



Image credit: NASA, Michael DeMocker

SPACE NEWS:

NASA's Europa Clipper mission, launched in October 2024, aims to get a gravity assist from the planet Mars in early March. The gravity assist technique helps increase momentum of the spacecraft on its long flight. It's sometimes thought of as a slingshot method and it is vital to deep distance voyages. An investigation of what is below the icy surface of Jupiter's moon, Europa, is the missions' driving force. Mysteries of an immense ocean are hoped to be revealed in 2030.



Image credit: NASA, JPL-Caltech

STAR CHART FAQ



How do I use the star chart?

Hold it out in front of you with the direction you're facing at the bottom of the chart. It works even better if you hold it above your head and look up at it.

Why are east and west switched?

They are only switched because you're used to looking at maps of the ground. Hold it above your head, and you'll see the directions line up just right.