

# Tonight's Sky: November 2018

Your guide to constellations, deep-sky objects, planets, and events: Tonight's Sky.

Highlights of the November sky:

Saturn shines clear above the southwest horizon at nightfall.

Watch as it shifts lower in the sky each night, preparing to depart the evening sky.

Small telescopes show off its rings.

Red Mars retains its position in the south as it moves into Aquarius, recedes, and dims.

Backyard telescopes still show a tiny disk, but surface features may be difficult to resolve.

Some fish, a ram, and a triangle can all be found in the November night sky.

Pisces, in ancient mythology, are twin fish tied together. They represent two Greek gods fleeing fire.

Look for the circlets of stars high in the southern sky.

Just to the east of Pisces lies Aries, the golden ram of the Greek gods. It is a dim constellation.

Pisces and Aries are in the zodiac, the band of sky through which the Sun appears to travel.

Triangulum, a simple geometric constellation, has been identified since ancient times. Look for it next to the Ram and the Fish.

The lovely Triangulum Galaxy resides here. It belongs to the same cluster of galaxies that includes our own Milky Way. Also known as M33, the galaxy is about 3 million light-years distant. It can be seen in a dark sky with binoculars.

Venus pops back into the predawn sky in November, spending the month in the vicinity of the bright star Spica in Virgo, especially around mid-month.

Modest telescopes will reveal its crescent moon-like phase.

November boasts two meteor showers.

The Taurid meteor shower, spread over weeks, features 5 to 10 meteors per hour on its peak night of November 5 to 6.

The meteors will streak across the sky from the direction of Taurus the bull, in the eastern sky at nightfall.

While the shower is fairly minor, it is known for bright fireballs, and the sky will be dark with the Moon out of the way.

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The Leonid meteor shower is the result of Earth's annual passage through the dust trails left by Comet Tempel-Tuttle, which returns to the inner solar system every 33 years.

Look for meteors radiating from the constellation of Leo the lion in the evening of November 17 and early morning of November 18.

The night sky is always a celestial showcase. Explore its wonders from your own backyard.