

# Tonight's Sky: 2016

## June

Your guide to constellations, deep-sky objects, planets, and events. Tonight's Sky, highlights of the June Sky.

### Evening Planets

Jupiter shines high in the southwestern sky after sunset.

Aim a telescope at the bright planet to spy its dark cloud bands.

Turn to the southeast to find Mars and Saturn hanging above the horizon.

A telescope offers a better view of features on Mars and of Saturn's famous rings.

### Constellations and Deep-Sky Objects

Turn your gaze upward to find four distinctive constellations.

High overhead lies Boötes, the Herdsman. Find it by looking for its prominent kite shape, which was noted by many ancient cultures.

Arcturus is the fourth-brightest star in the night sky.

The star Epsilon Boötis is also known as Izar. In binoculars, Izar resolves into one of the finest double stars in the sky. The color contrast between the stars is striking.

Just to the left of Boötes lies the Northern Crown, Corona Borealis. This lovely circlet of stars represents the wedding crown of Ariadne, the daughter of King Minos of Crete.

While the stars are not very bright, their pattern is easy to pick out.

The mythical strongman Hercules is also found high in the summer night sky, wielding his mighty weapons.

The constellation is rather dim. Look for its lopsided square of four stars, called the Keystone.

The Keystone in Hercules is the “key” to finding one of the brightest globular star clusters in the summer night sky. The wonderful Hercules Cluster, also known as M13, contains about a million stars.

Outside the Keystone lies another magnificent globular cluster of stars, M92.

Globular clusters are collections of closely packed, gravitationally bound stars.

Draco, the Dragon, winds his way through the northern sky.

The Dragon's head is a skewed square of stars. Look for the dimmest of the corner stars. In binoculars it resolves into two stars, which look like a bright pair of headlights.

### **Ending**

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