

Tonight's Sky: 2017

November

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

Evening Planets

After sunset, look for Saturn low in the southwestern sky.

Use a telescope to view the ringed planet before it slips below the horizon.

Constellations and Deep-Sky Objects

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.

Morning Planets

Reddish Mars appears in the eastern sky before dawn. A telescope might reveal some bright and dark features on the planet.

If you have a clear view of the eastern horizon just before sunrise, you might be able to spot Venus or Jupiter — perhaps both during mid-month.

Jupiter becomes easier to find as it rises higher in the sky in late November.

Events

November boasts the Leonid meteor shower.

This 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 in the evening of November 17th and early morning of November 18th.

Ending

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