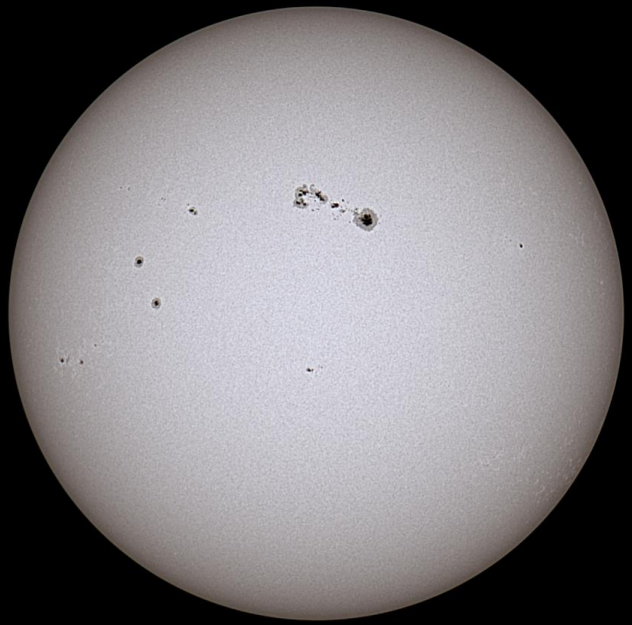

BEDFORD
ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
B.A.S.

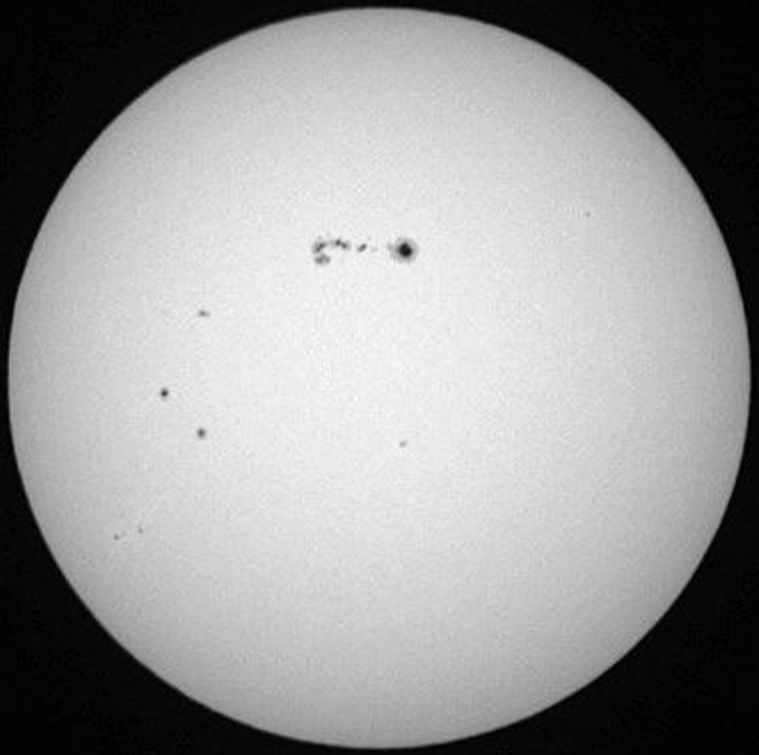

Seestar S50
NGC 2419
60min



Seestar S50

Solar

stacked/00°W,52°N/2026-02-04 12:10



The Sun - 14:43 04/02/2026.
Active Region 4366.
Peter V Hudson. Great Barford.


Seestar S50
IC 434
16° W, 28° N / 2026.02.21 21:10
15min

Sky Notes March 2026

Darren Jehan
25th Feb 2026
Note: all times BST

Astronomical Darkness

1st March:

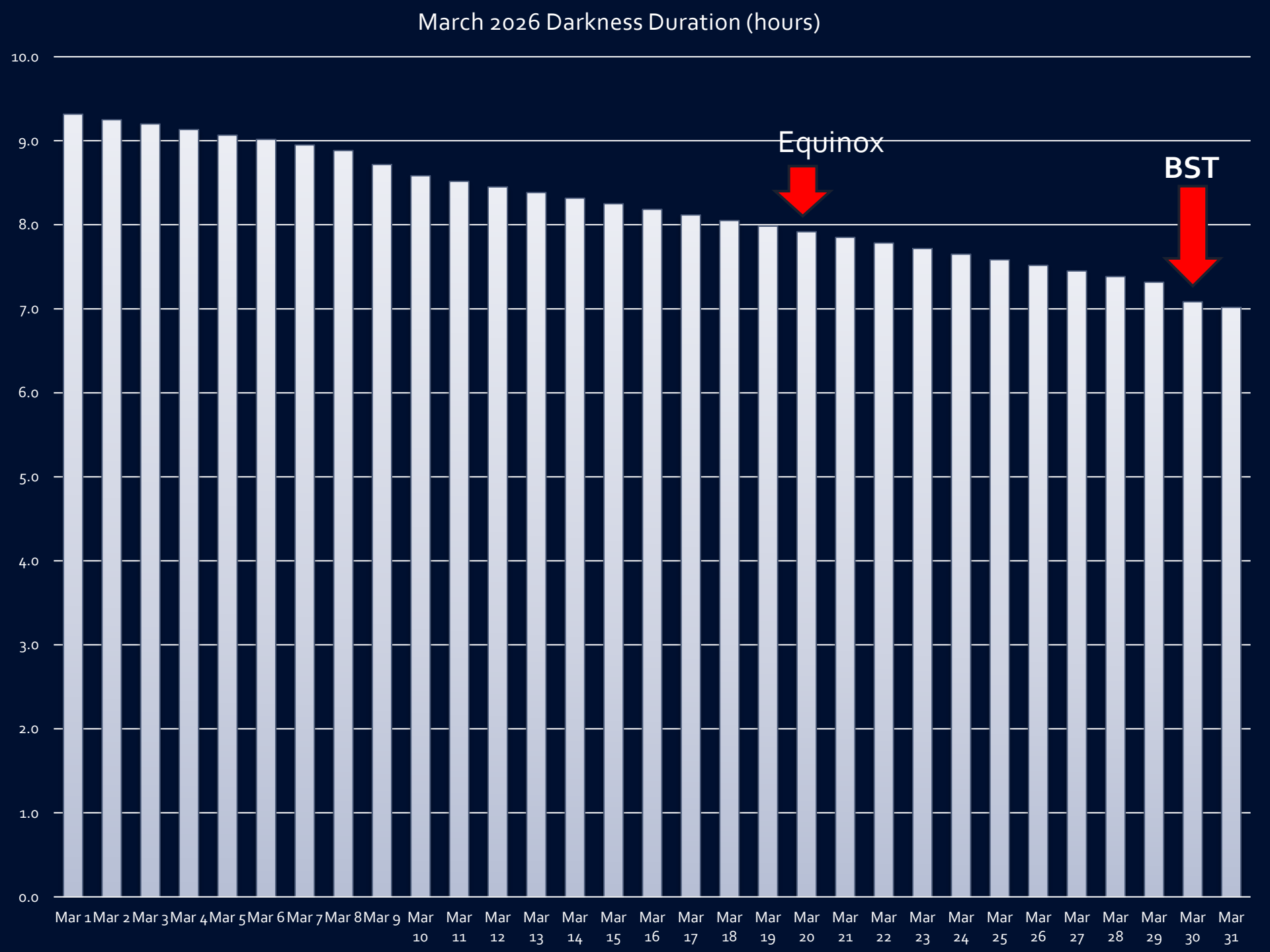
- Astronomical Dark = 19:40 – 05:00 (~9h 20m)

15th March:

- Astronomical Dark = 20:10 - 04:20 (~9h 10m)

30th March:

- Astronomical Dark = 21:40 – 04:45 (~7h 5m)


March 2026 Darkness Duration (hours)
10.0
9.0
8.0
7.0
6.0
5.0
4.0
3.0
2.0
1.0
0.0
Equinox
BST
Mar 1
Mar 2
Mar 3
Mar 4
Mar 5
Mar 6
Mar 7
Mar 8
Mar 9
Mar 10
Mar 11
Mar 12
Mar 13
Mar 14
Mar 15
Mar 16
Mar 17
Mar 18
Mar 19
Mar 20
Mar 21
Mar 22
Mar 23
Mar 24
Mar 25
Mar 26
Mar 27
Mar 28
Mar 29
Mar 30
Mar 31

SPRING!

Spring Equinox

Sunday 29th March

CONTENTS

MAIN EVENTS

17-hour old moon

Jupiter eclipses

Moon eclipses Regulus

17 hour old Moon

19th March

The angle of the ecliptic is steep, giving a great chance to see a very young moon ~17 hours old.

After sunset, the moon will be at azimuth 268°, approx. 7° above the horizon.

BE ABSOLYELY SURE THE SUN HAS SET BEFORE YOU START HUNTING!!


Venus
Moon
W
Date and time
Date and time
Julian Day
2026 - 3 - 19
18 : 19 : 0

Date and time

Date and time | Julian Day

2026 – 3 – 19 | 18 : 19 : 0

Jupiter moon eclipses

Jupiter Moon Eclipses

1st March – 18:50 onwards

- Ganymede exits from behind Jupiter @ 18:56
- It enters Jupiter's shadow at 19:52
  - Larger telescopes will show the curve of the shadow on the moon
- Emerges from the shadow at 23:15
  - IO and its shadow are transiting at the same time

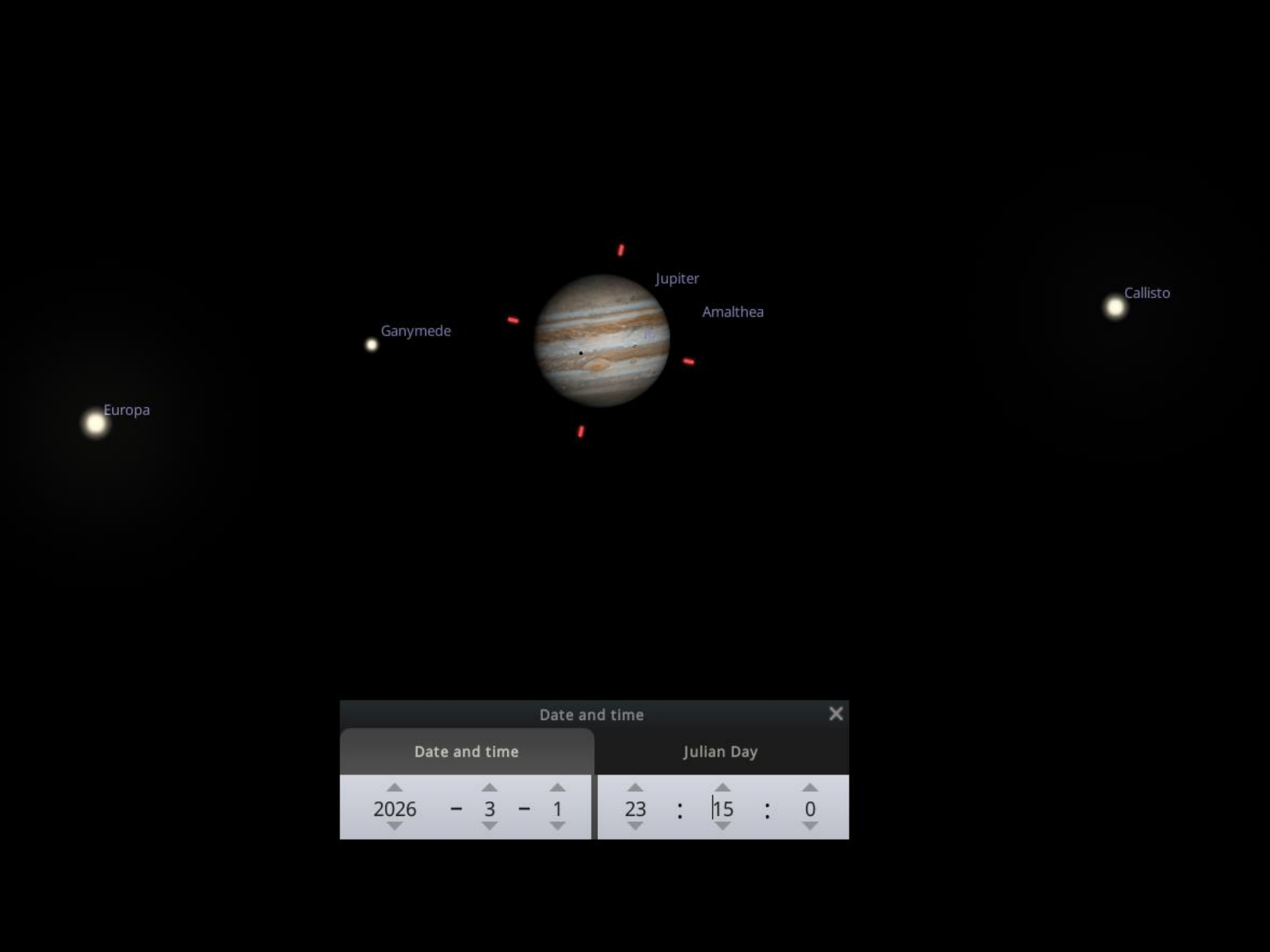

Jupiter
Amalthea
Callisto
Io
Europa
Date and time
Date and time
Julian Day
2026 – 3 – 1
18 : 55 : 0

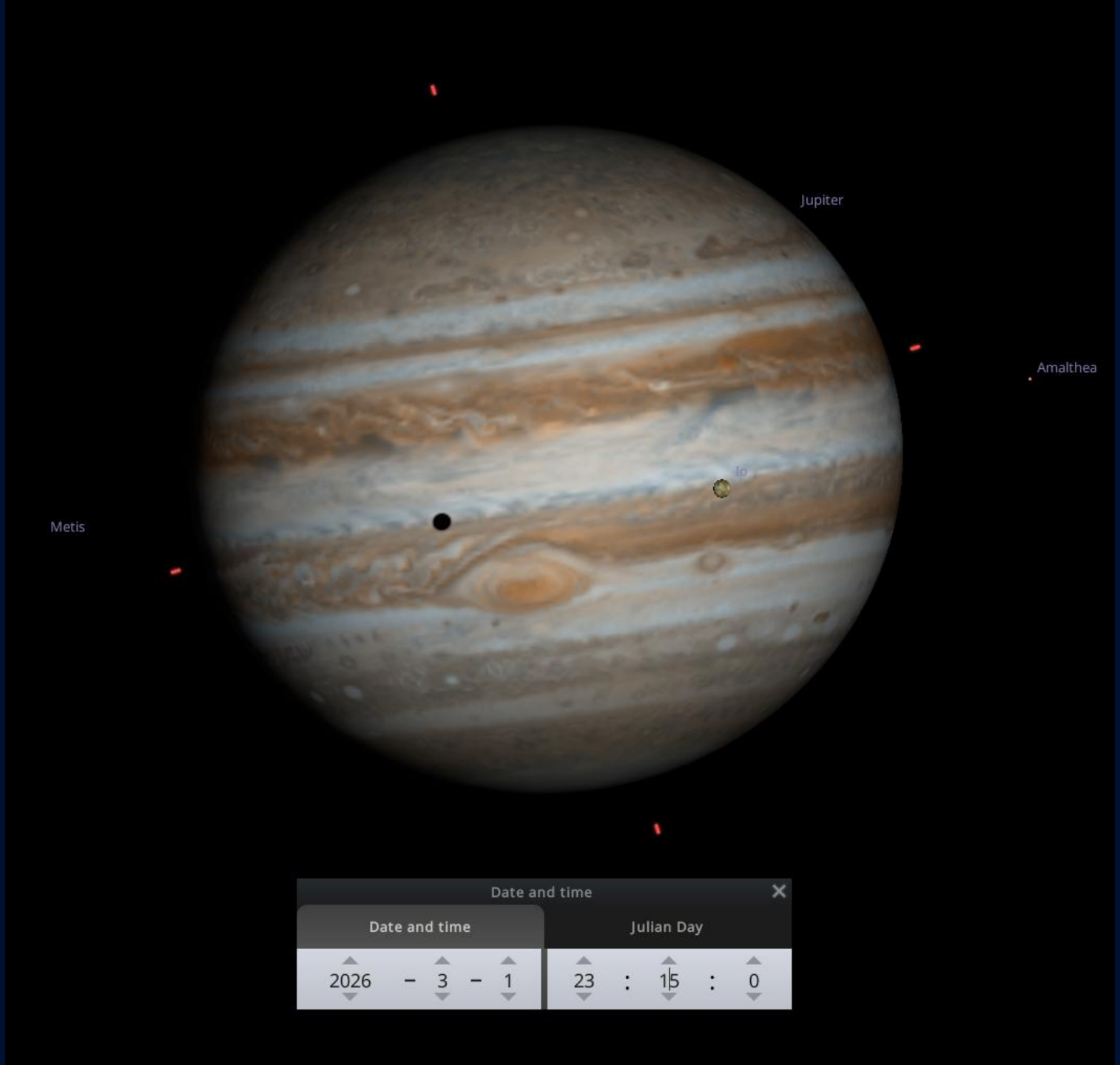

Jupiter
Gany
Amalthea
Callisto
Io
Europa
Date and time
Date and time
Julian Day
2026 – 3 – 1
19 : 50 : 0

Date and time

Date and time | Julian Day

2026 – 3 – 1 | 19 : 51 : 0


Jupiter
Amalthea
Ganymede
Callisto
Europa
Date and time
Date and time
Julian Day
2026 – 3 – 1
23 : 15 : 0


Jupiter
Amalthea
Io
Metis
Date and time
Date and time
Julian Day
2026 - 3 - 1
23 : 15 : 0

9th and 26th March

9th

- 20:16 – Callisto disappears into eclipse
- 00:32 (10th) – Callisto reappears

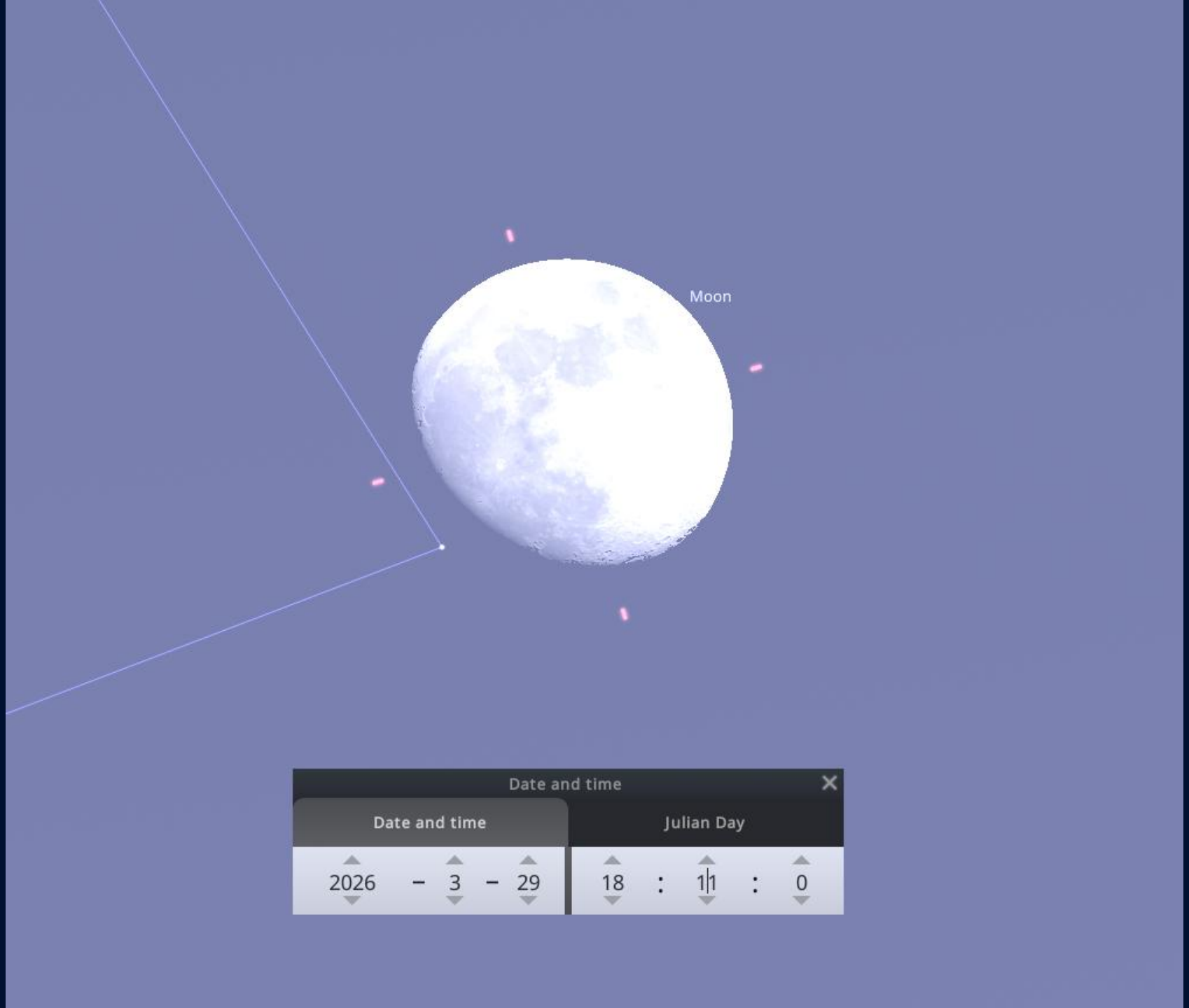
26th

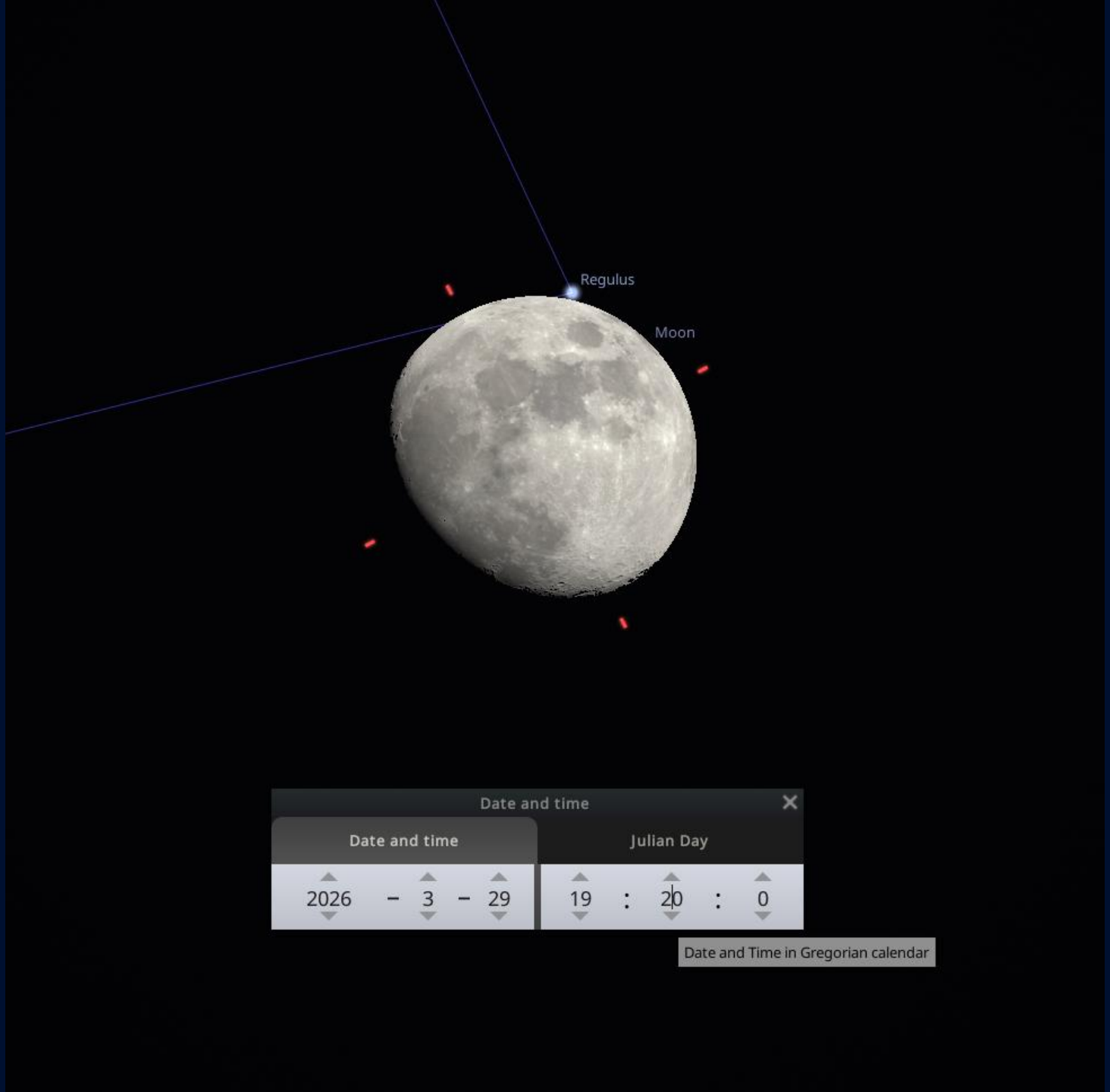
- 02:24 – Callisto occulted by Jupiter
- (Exit from occultation and disappearance in eclipse are in daylight)
- 18:40 – Callisto re-emerges from eclipse

Moon eclipses Regulus

29th March 19:14 BST

Re-emerges at 20:21 BST


Moon
Date and time
Date and time
Julian Day
2026 – 3 – 29
18 : 11 : 0


Regulus
Moon
Date and time
Date and time
Julian Day
2026 – 3 – 29
19 : 20 : 0
Date and Time in Gregorian calendar

THE MOON

Phases

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1  Moon: 15:15 06:14	2  Moon: 16:40 06:30	3  Moon: 18:01 06:43 Full Moon,11:38	4  Moon: 19:20 06:54	5  Moon: 20:36 07:04	6  Moon: 21:53 07:15	7  Moon: 23:09 07:27
8  Moon: ------ 07:42	9  Moon: 00:24 08:01	10  Moon: 01:38 08:29	11  Moon: 02:44 09:08 Last Qtr.,09:40	12  Moon: 03:39 10:00	13  Moon: 04:20 11:05	14  Moon: 04:51 12:20
15  Moon: 05:13 13:40	16  Moon: 05:29 15:01	17  Moon: 05:42 16:23	18  Moon: 05:54 17:46	19  Moon: 06:05 19:11 New Moon,01:25	20  Moon: 06:17 20:39	21  Moon: 06:31 22:10
22  Moon: 06:50 23:42	23  Moon: 07:17 ------	24  Moon: 07:56 01:10	25  Moon: 08:52 02:24 First Qtr.,19:19	26  Moon: 10:06 03:19	27  Moon: 11:31 03:56	28  Moon: 12:58 04:20
29  Moon: 14:22 04:38	30  Moon: 16:43 05:51	31  Moon: 18:01 06:02	1  Moon: 19:17 06:12	2  Moon: 20:33 06:22 Full Moon,03:13	3  Moon: 21:49 06:34	4  Moon: 23:06 06:48
5  Moon: ------ 07:06	6  Moon: 00:20 07:30	7  Moon: 01:30 08:04	8  Moon: 02:29 08:50	9  Moon: 03:16 09:50	10  Moon: 03:50 11:00 Last Qtr.,05:53	11  Moon: 04:15 12:16

Phases

FM: 3rd

LQ: 11th

NM: 19th

FQ: 25th

March 2026

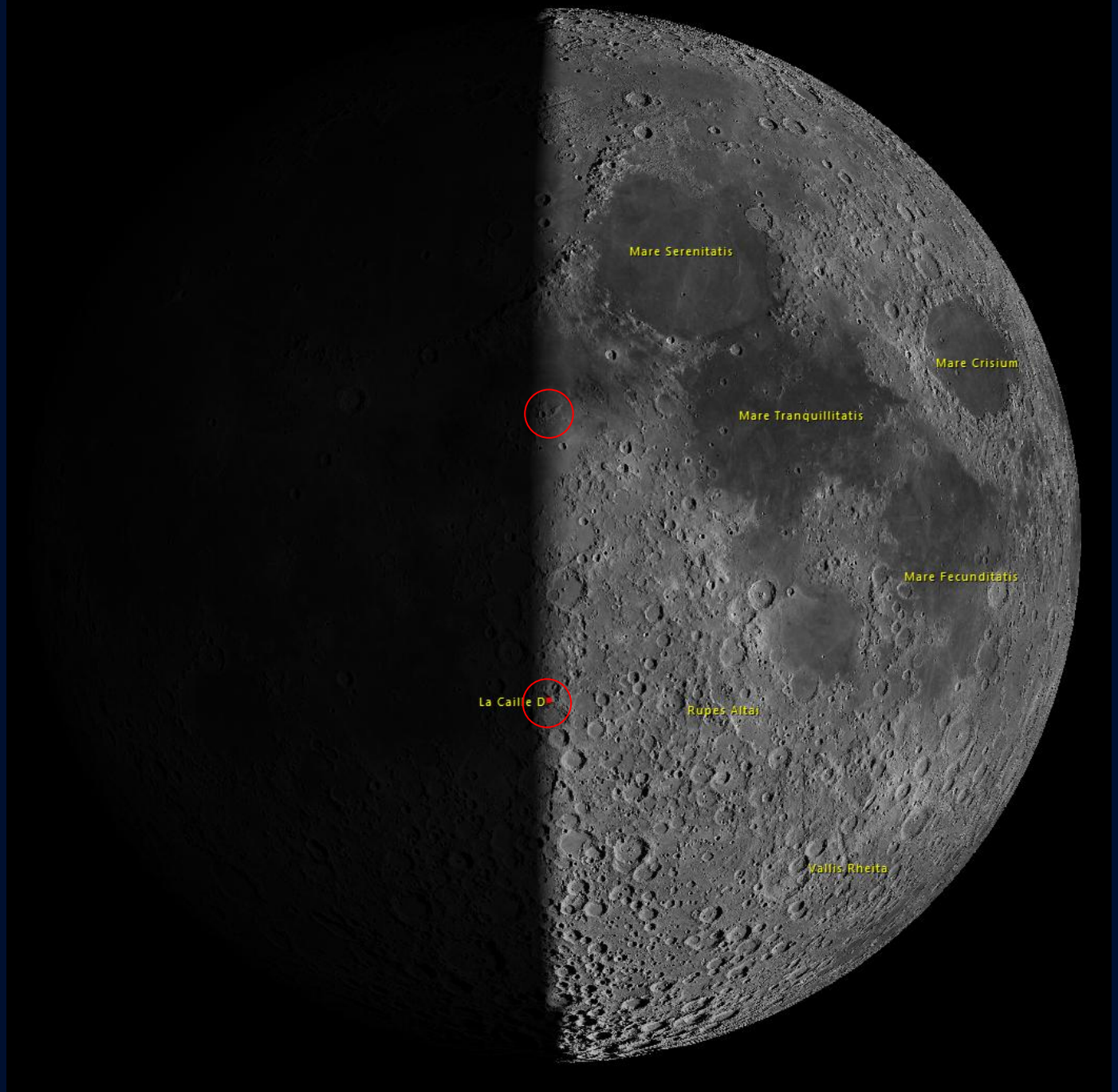
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1  Moon: 15:15 06:14	2  Moon: 16:40 06:30	3  Moon: 18:01 06:43 Full Moon,11:38	4  Moon: 19:20 06:54	5  Moon: 20:36 07:04	6  Moon: 21:53 07:15	7  Moon: 23:09 07:27
8  Moon: ------ 07:42	9  Moon: 00:24 08:01	10  Moon: 01:38 08:29	11  Moon: 02:44 09:08 Last Qtr.,09:40	12  Moon: 03:39 10:00	13  Moon: 04:20 11:05	14  Moon: 04:51 12:20
15  Moon: 05:13 13:40	16  Moon: 05:29 15:01	17  Moon: 05:42 16:23	18  Moon: 05:54 17:46	19  Moon: 06:05 19:11 New Moon,01:25	20  Moon: 06:17 20:39	21  Moon: 06:31 22:10
22  Moon: 06:50 23:42	23  Moon: 07:17 ------	24  Moon: 07:56 01:10	25  Moon: 08:52 02:24 First Qtr.,19:19	26  Moon: 10:06 03:19	27  Moon: 11:31 03:56	28  Moon: 12:58 04:20
29  Moon: 14:22 04:38	30  Moon: 16:43 05:51	31  Moon: 18:01 06:02	1  Moon: 19:17 06:12	2  Moon: 20:33 06:22 Full Moon,03:13	3  Moon: 21:49 06:34	4  Moon: 23:06 06:48
5  Moon: ------ 07:06	6  Moon: 00:20 07:30	7  Moon: 01:30 08:04	8  Moon: 02:29 08:50	9  Moon: 03:16 09:50	10  Moon: 03:50 11:00 Last Qtr.,05:53	11  Moon: 04:15 12:16

Other Moon Events

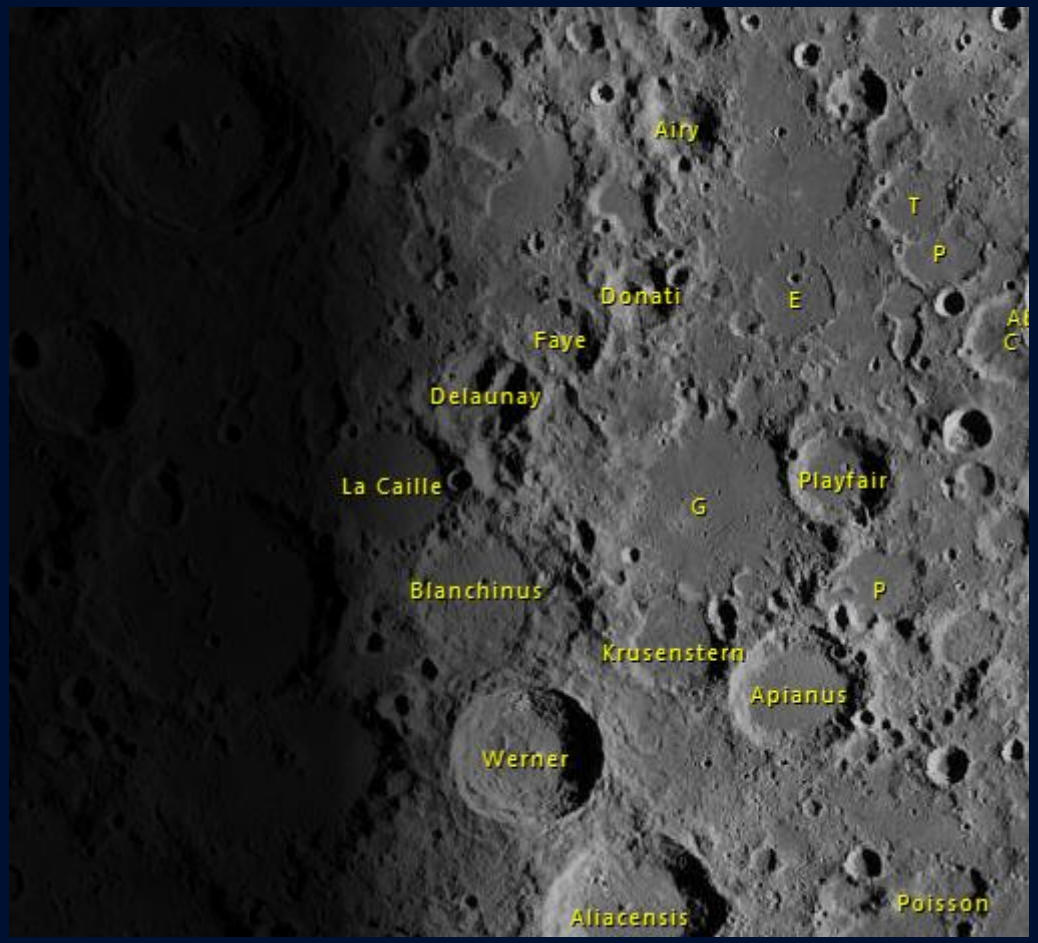
10th – A 61% lit moon gets to within 4° of Antares

25th – The Lunar X and V are visible around 20:50

27th – 02:30, the Eye of Clavius appears

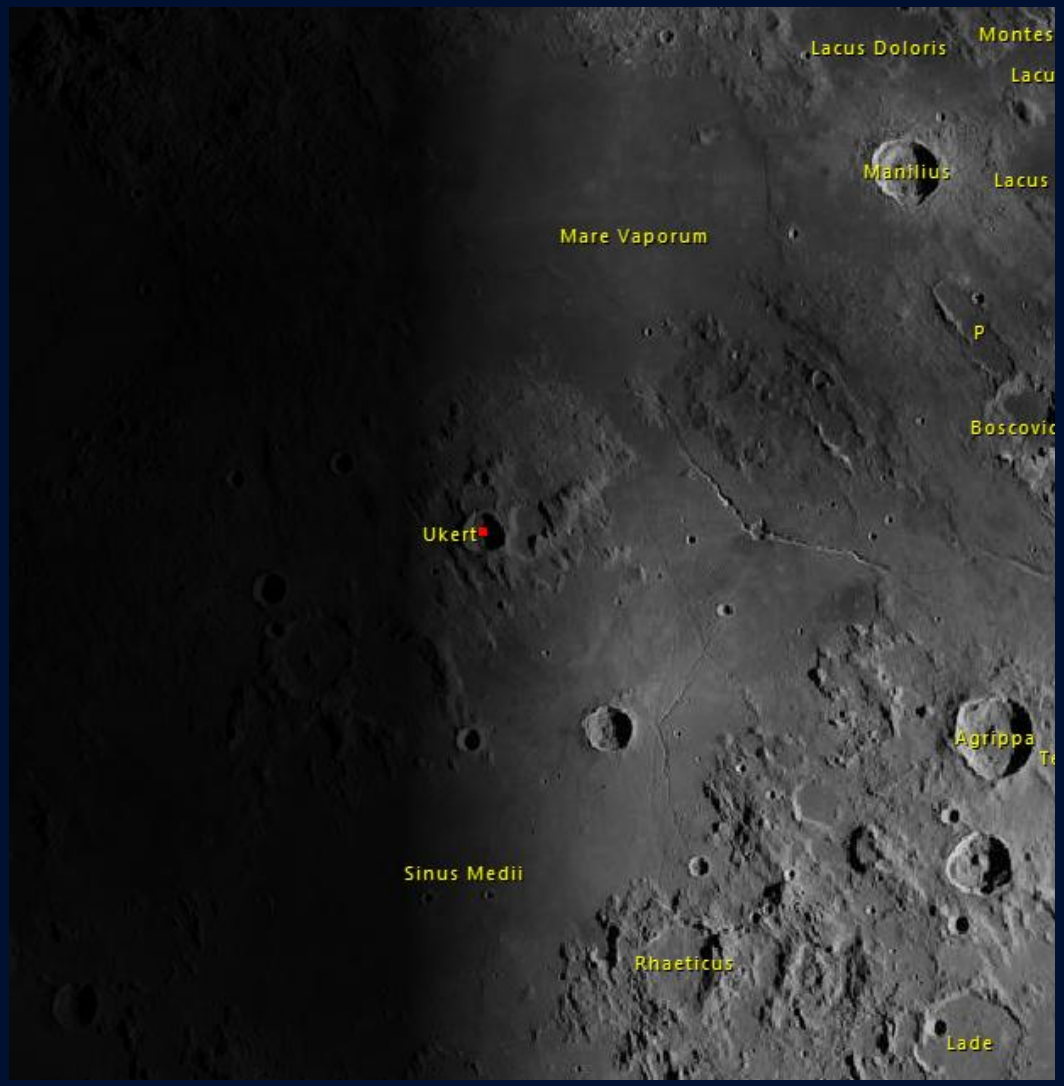

Mare Serenitatis
Mare Crisium
Mare Tranquillitatis
Mare Fecunditatis
La Caille D
Rupes Altai
Vallis Rheita

Lunar X

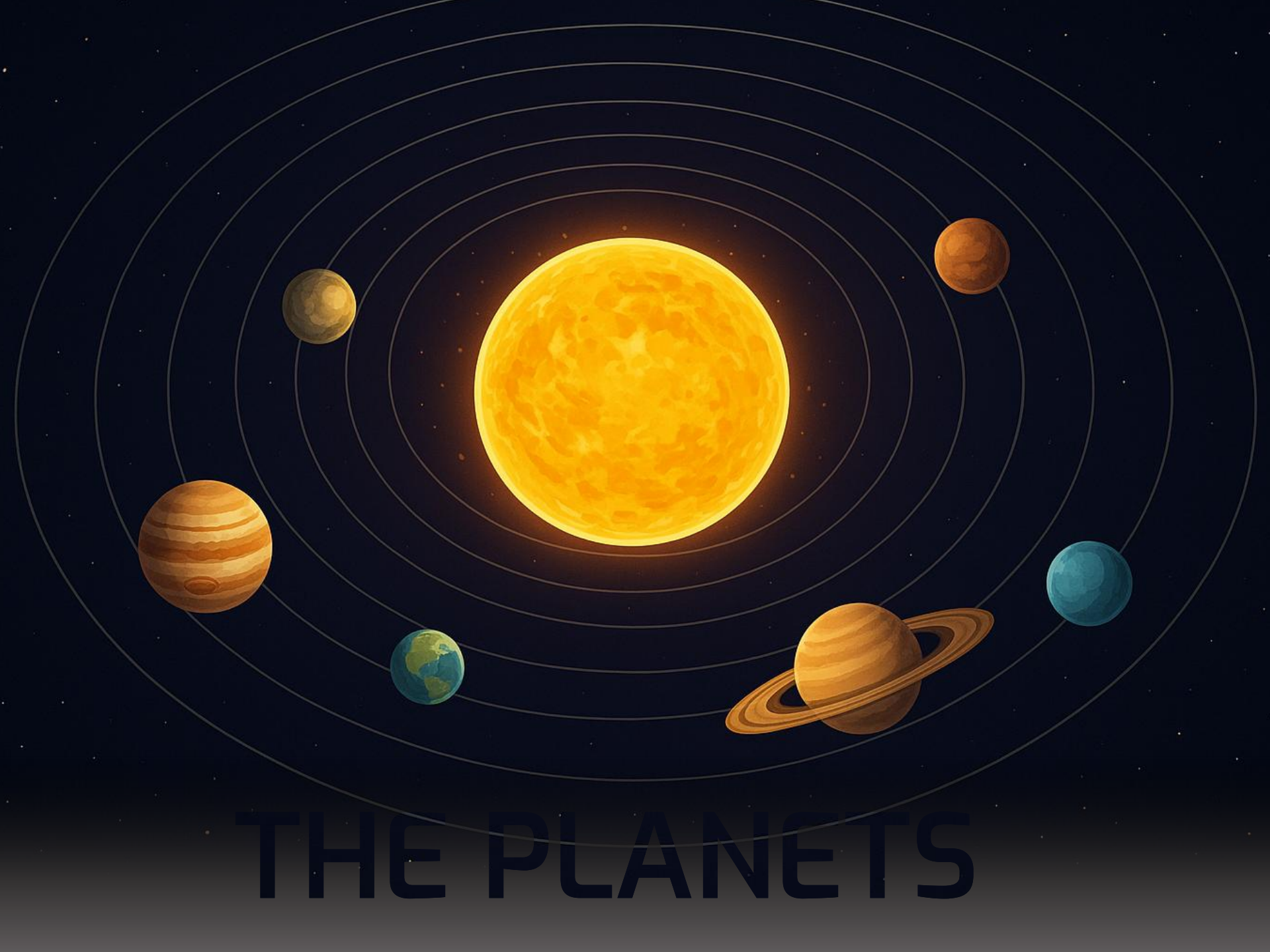


The boundaries between La Caille, Blanchnus and Delaunay

Lunar V



Right next to Ukert


THE PLANETS

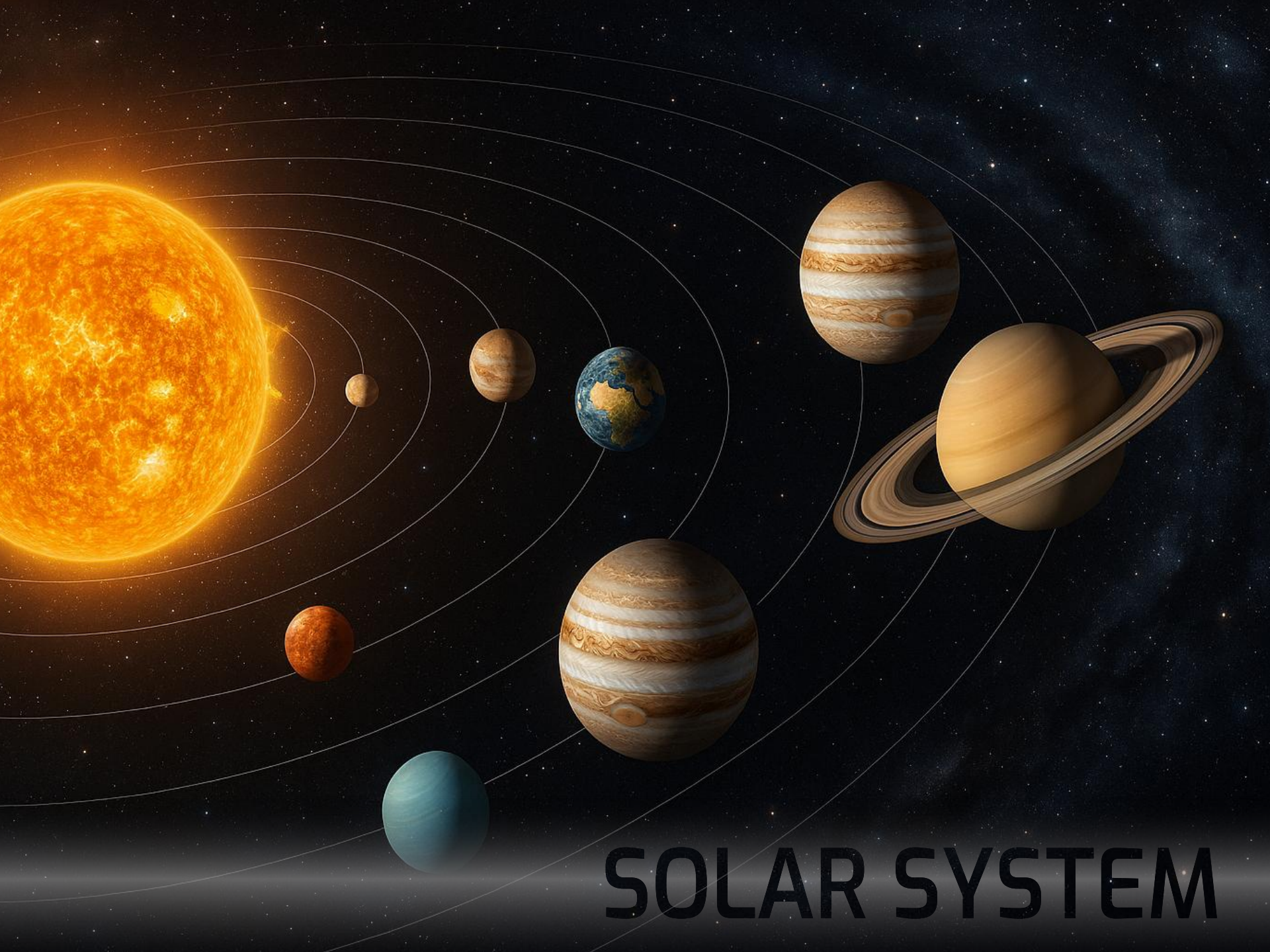
The Planets

Planet	Rise	Set	Best	Visibility
Mercury	07:15	19:10		Difficult. Only visible in the first week of March, low in the West after sunset.
Venus	07:20	18:45	After sunset	Improving. Very low in the evening twilight. Sets shortly after the Sun.
Mars	06:20	14:00		Impossible. Lost in the Sun's glare; rises and sets during daylight hours.
Jupiter	11:40	03:30	01/03 20:40	Excellent. Very high and bright in the South/South-West for most of the night.
Saturn	07:10	19:00	07/03 After sunset	Difficult. Becoming lost in the evening twilight as it approaches conjunction.
Uranus	09:15	00:50	01/03 07:40	Moderate. Visible in the evening; close to Pleiades.
Neptune	07:05	18:55		Very Difficult. Too close to the Sun's glare and extremely faint.

Timings at 15th Month

Venus and Saturn – 7th March

Venus and Saturn – 8th March


SOLAR SYSTEM

The ISS

Date	Brightness (mag)	Start			Highest point			End			Pass type
		Time	Alt.	Az.	Time	Alt.	Az.	Time	Alt.	Az.	
22 Feb	-0.9	04:00:50	18°	E	04:00:50	18°	E	04:01:51	10°	E	visible
22 Feb	-3.8	05:33:51	30°	W	05:35:21	85°	S	05:38:43	10°	E	visible
23 Feb	-3.6	04:48:56	71°	ESE	04:48:56	71°	ESE	04:52:02	10°	E	visible
23 Feb	-3.6	06:22:08	10°	W	06:25:29	70°	SSW	06:28:49	10°	ESE	visible
24 Feb	-1.3	04:03:59	22°	E	04:03:59	22°	E	04:05:18	10°	E	visible
24 Feb	-3.8	05:36:59	25°	W	05:38:47	80°	S	05:42:08	10°	ESE	visible
25 Feb	-3.9	04:52:01	85°	SSW	04:52:02	85°	S	04:55:24	10°	E	visible
26 Feb	-1.6	04:07:04	26°	E	04:07:04	26°	E	04:08:38	10°	E	visible
26 Feb	-3.5	05:40:04	21°	W	05:42:04	57°	SSW	05:45:22	10°	ESE	visible
27 Feb	-3.9	04:55:07	66°	SW	04:55:18	69°	SSW	04:58:39	10°	ESE	visible
28 Feb	-1.8	04:10:11	28°	ESE	04:10:11	28°	ESE	04:11:53	10°	ESE	visible
28 Feb	-2.8	05:43:11	18°	W	05:45:09	32°	SSW	05:48:12	10°	SE	visible
1 Mar	-3.3	04:58:18	43°	SSW	04:58:25	43°	SSW	05:01:37	10°	SE	visible
2 Mar	-1.7	04:13:28	23°	SE	04:13:28	23°	SE	04:14:56	10°	ESE	visible
2 Mar	-1.9	05:46:30	13°	WSW	05:47:59	17°	SW	05:50:14	10°	S	visible
3 Mar	-2.3	05:01:45	23°	SSW	05:01:45	23°	SSW	05:04:02	10°	SSE	visible

The ISS

Date	Brightness (mag)	Start			Highest point			End			Pass type
		Time	Alt.	Az.	Time	Alt.	Az.	Time	Alt.	Az.	
4 Mar	-1.1	04:17:06	13°	SSE	04:17:06	13°	SSE	04:17:34	10°	SE	visible
11 Mar	-1.0	20:19:21	10°	SSW	20:19:38	12°	SSW	20:19:38	12°	SSW	visible
12 Mar	-2.2	19:32:44	10°	SSW	19:35:07	21°	SSE	19:35:07	21°	SSE	visible
13 Mar	-1.8	18:46:23	10°	S	18:48:31	16°	SE	18:50:26	11°	ESE	visible
13 Mar	-2.3	20:21:30	10°	WSW	20:23:26	30°	SW	20:23:26	30°	SW	visible

The ISS

Date	Brightness (mag)	Start			Highest point			End			Pass type
		Time	Alt.	Az.	Time	Alt.	Az.	Time	Alt.	Az.	
14 Mar	-3.2	19:34:34	10°	SW	19:37:46	40°	SSE	19:38:36	33°	ESE	visible
14 Mar	-0.8	21:11:02	10°	W	21:11:36	14°	W	21:11:36	14°	W	visible
15 Mar	-2.7	18:47:43	10°	SSW	18:50:45	30°	SSE	18:53:37	11°	E	visible
15 Mar	-3.1	20:23:55	10°	WSW	20:26:37	52°	WSW	20:26:37	52°	WSW	visible
16 Mar	-3.7	19:36:49	10°	WSW	19:40:11	65°	SSE	19:41:32	33°	E	visible
16 Mar	-1.0	21:13:34	10°	W	21:14:32	18°	W	21:14:32	18°	W	visible
17 Mar	-3.4	18:49:43	10°	WSW	18:53:03	53°	SSE	18:56:22	10°	E	visible
17 Mar	-3.4	20:26:23	10°	W	20:29:21	64°	W	20:29:21	64°	W	visible
18 Mar	-3.8	19:39:12	10°	W	19:42:37	83°	S	19:44:06	31°	E	visible
18 Mar	-1.1	21:16:01	10°	W	21:17:05	19°	W	21:17:05	19°	W	visible
19 Mar	-3.7	18:51:59	10°	WSW	18:55:23	77°	S	18:58:47	10°	E	visible
19 Mar	-3.5	20:28:48	10°	W	20:31:48	63°	WSW	20:31:48	63°	WSW	visible
20 Mar	-3.8	19:41:33	10°	W	19:44:58	82°	S	19:46:28	31°	E	visible
20 Mar	-1.1	21:18:26	10°	W	21:19:26	17°	W	21:19:26	17°	W	visible
21 Mar	-3.7	18:54:18	10°	W	18:57:42	85°	S	19:01:06	10°	E	visible
21 Mar	-3.1	20:31:08	10°	W	20:34:05	47°	SW	20:34:05	47°	SW	visible
22 Mar	-3.6	19:43:50	10°	W	19:47:12	63°	SSW	19:48:43	29°	SE	visible
22 Mar	-0.9	21:21:00	10°	W	21:21:41	14°	WSW	21:21:41	14°	WSW	visible
23 Mar	-3.6	18:56:32	10°	W	18:59:56	74°	S	19:03:19	10°	ESE	visible
23 Mar	-2.3	20:33:30	10°	W	20:36:19	28°	SW	20:36:19	28°	SW	visible

The ISS

Date	Brightness (mag)	Start			Highest point			End			Pass type
		Time	Alt.	Az.	Time	Alt.	Az.	Time	Alt.	Az.	
24 Mar	-2.8	19:46:04	10°	W	19:49:16	38°	SSW	19:50:58	22°	SSE	visible
25 Mar	-3.1	18:58:41	10°	W	19:02:00	50°	SSW	19:05:17	10°	SE	visible
25 Mar	-1.4	20:36:17	10°	WSW	20:38:15	15°	SW	20:38:37	15°	SSW	visible
26 Mar	-1.7	19:48:29	10°	W	19:51:06	21°	SW	19:53:19	12°	S	visible
27 Mar	-2.1	19:00:53	10°	W	19:03:51	28°	SSW	19:06:49	10°	SSE	visible
29 Mar	-1.0	20:03:31	10°	WSW	20:05:28	15°	SW	20:07:25	10°	S	visible

C/2024 E1 (Wierzchos) - Sept

Distant visitor from the Oort Cloud!

Starting at mag +13 (!) at the start of September, rising to possibly mag +5 – but this will be below our horizon!

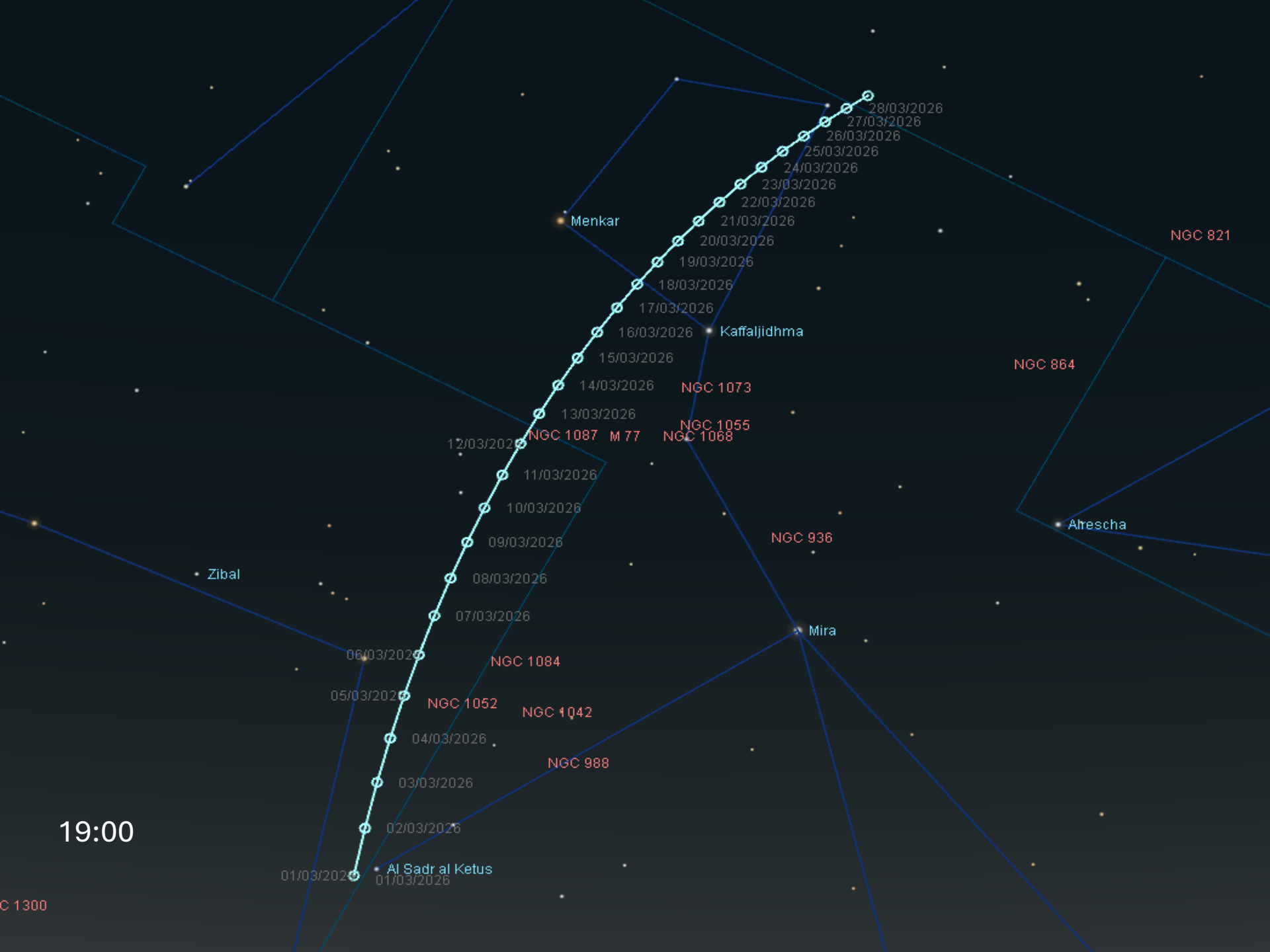
Might reach +11 by end of September

Certainly a challenge!!

C/2024 E1 (Wierzchos) Again!

Distant visitor from the Oort Cloud, now on it's way out of the solar system!

It's moving from Eridanus through into Taurus, starting at magnitude 10.0 and dimming to 10.5


28/03/2026
27/03/2026
26/03/2026
25/03/2026
24/03/2026
23/03/2026
22/03/2026
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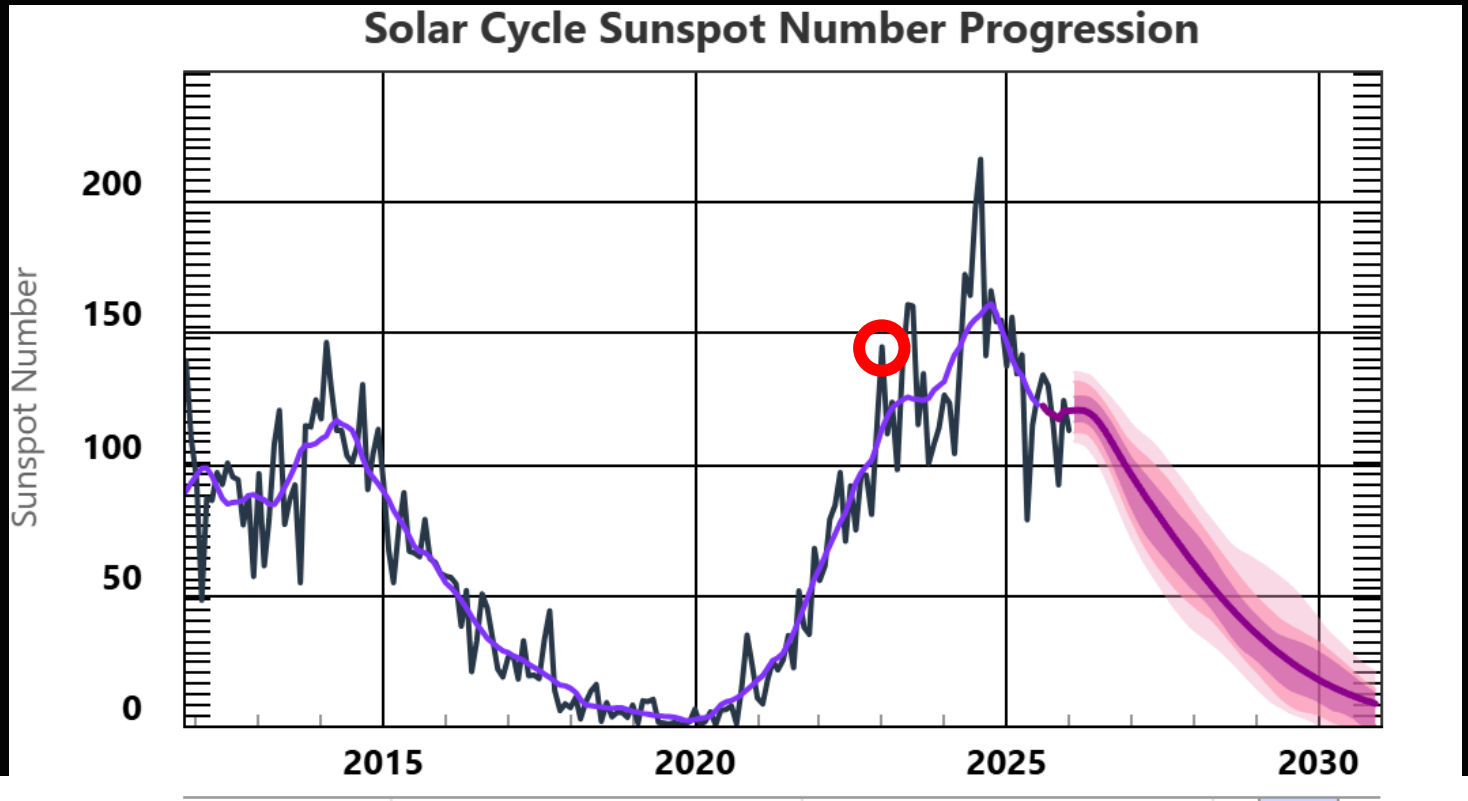
01/03/2026
Menkar
Kaffaljidhma
Al Sadr al Ketus
Zibal
Mira
Alrescha
NGC 821
NGC 864
NGC 1073
NGC 1055
NGC 1087
M 77
NGC 1068
NGC 936
NGC 1084
NGC 1052
NGC 1042
NGC 988
19:00
C 1300

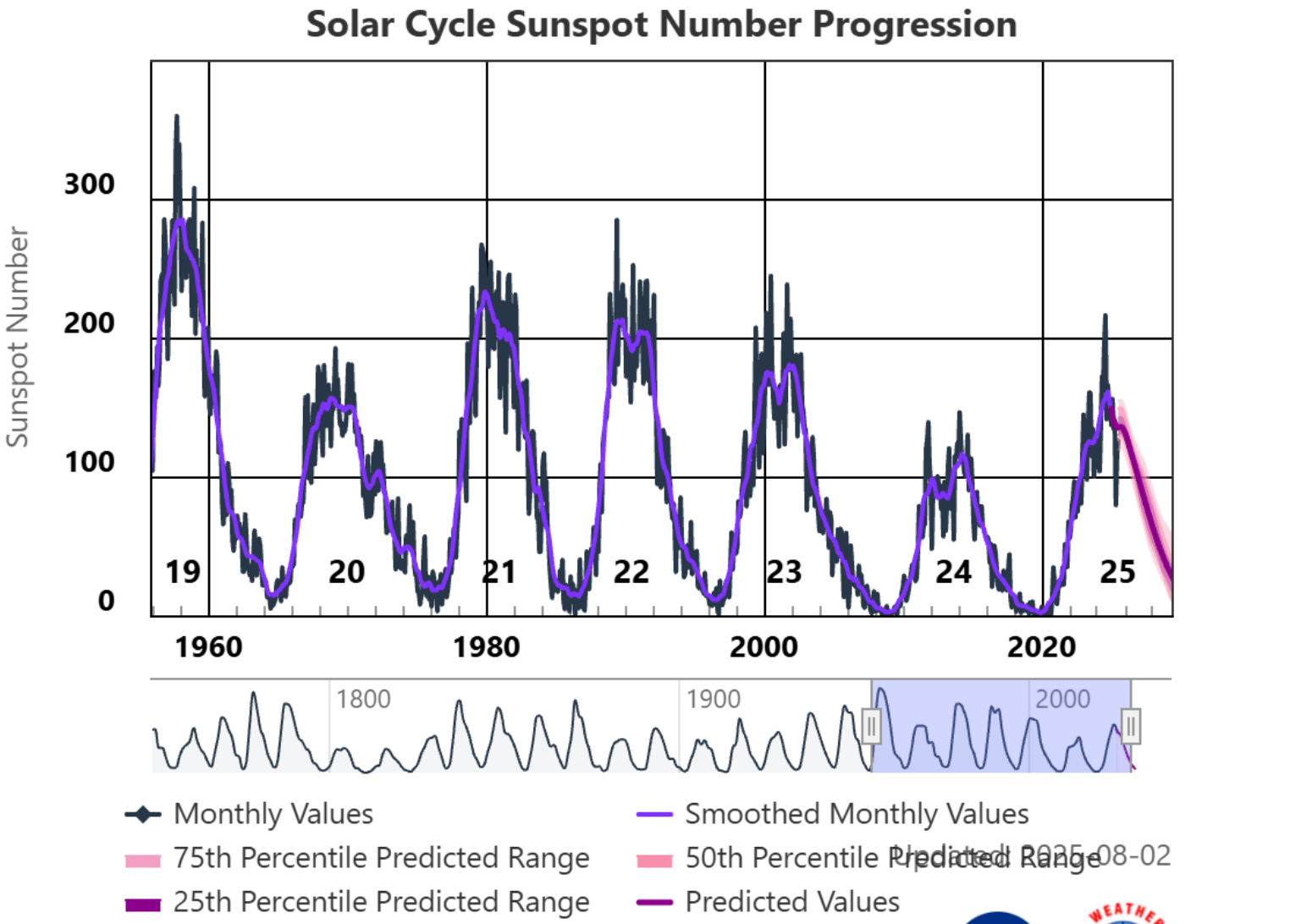
Northern Lights

Northern Lights

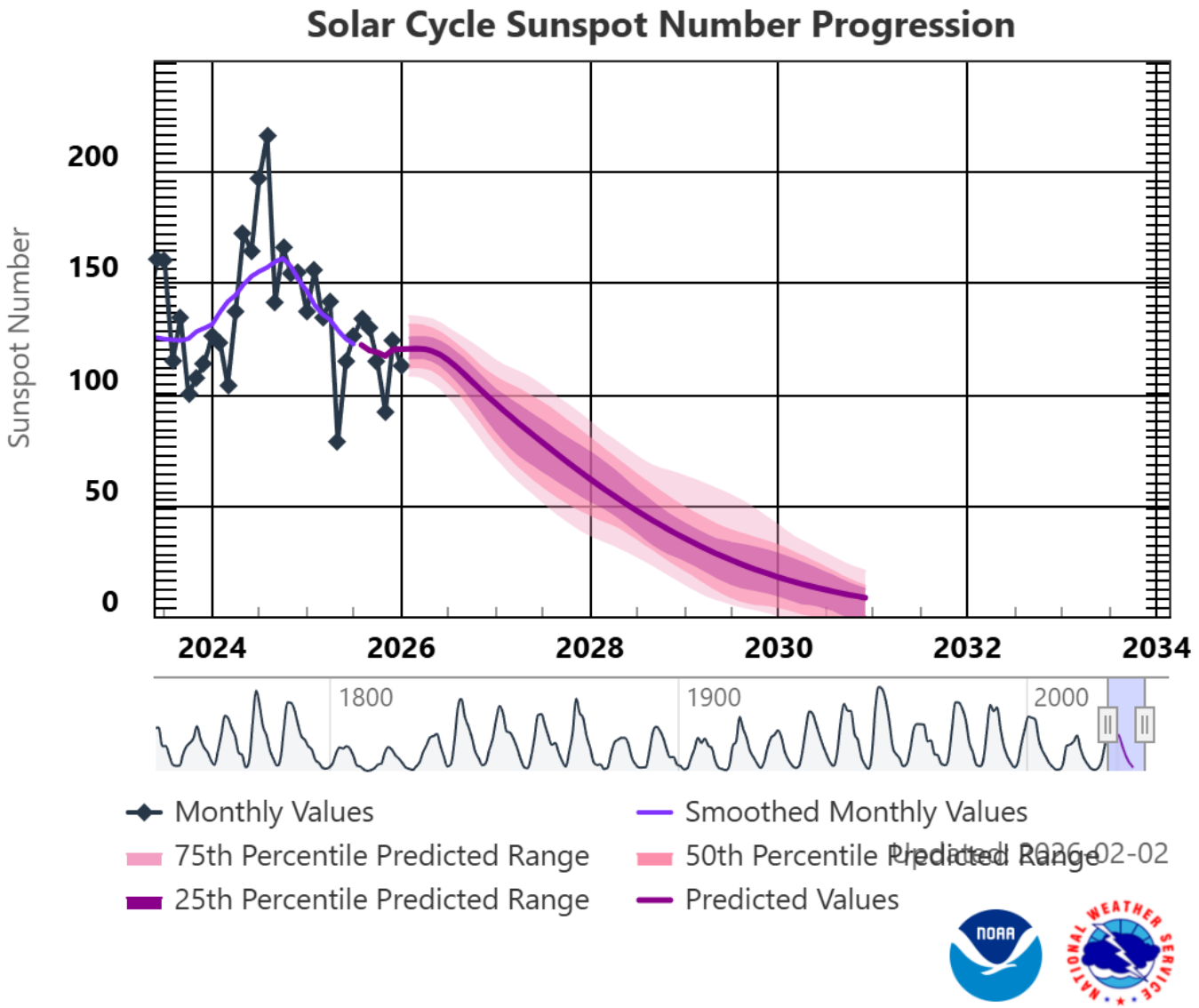

Solar Cycle Sunspot Number Progression
Sunspot Number
200
150
100
50
0
2015
2020
2025
2030

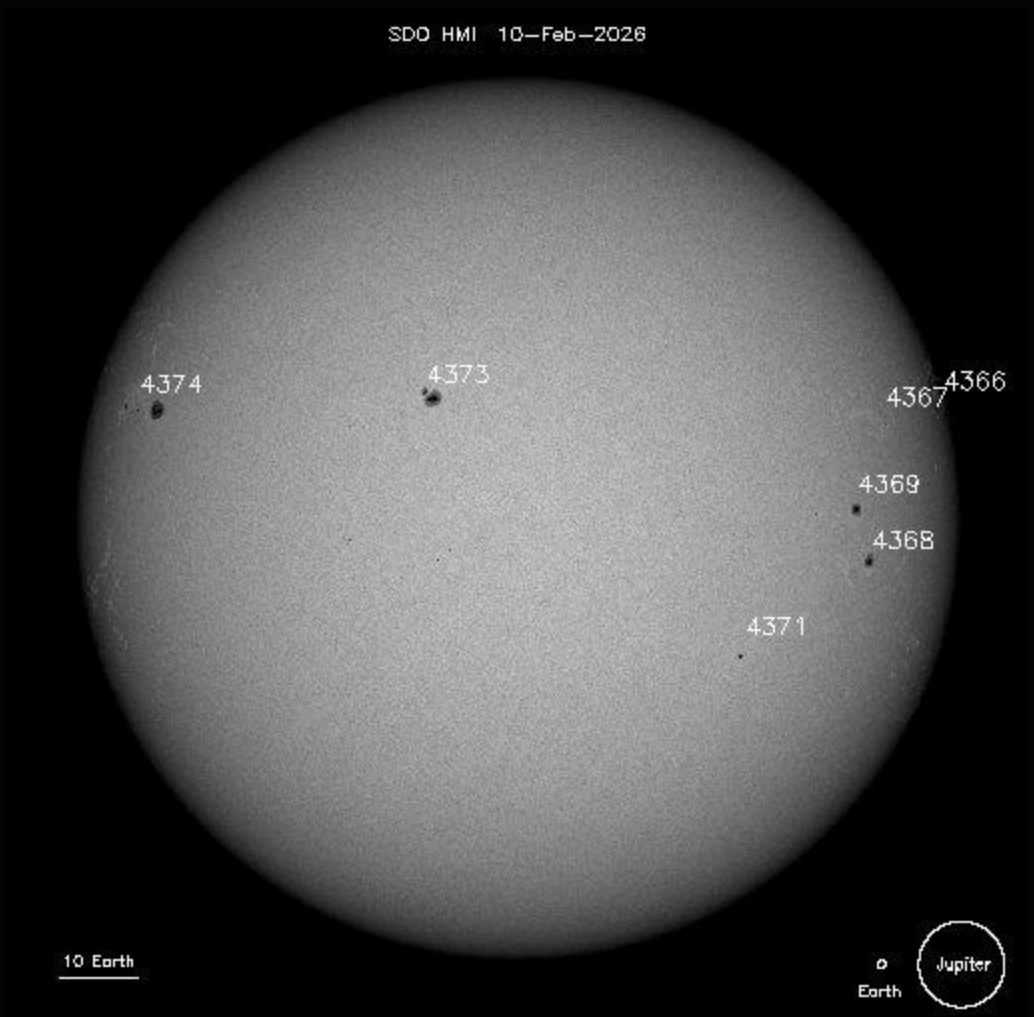

Sunspot Counts: 2011 - 2023
here
official forecast
actual data
9 years
Jan. 2023
July 2025
Sunspot Number
150
100
50
0
Solar Cycle 24
Solar Cycle 25
2012
2014
2016
2018
2020
2022
2024
2026
2028
2030

Zoom: Default All Numbering On/Off

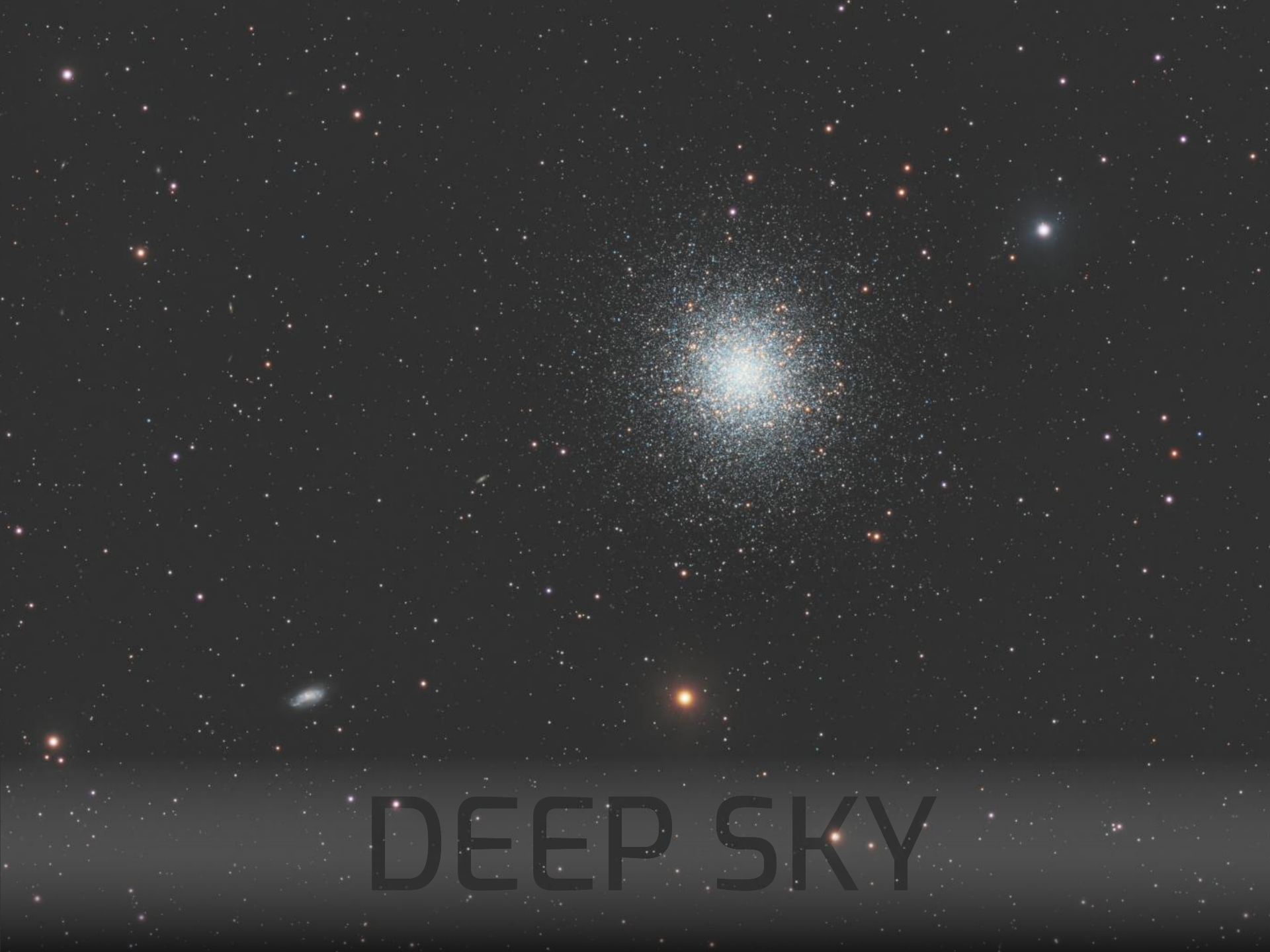


Zoom: Default All Numbering On/Off

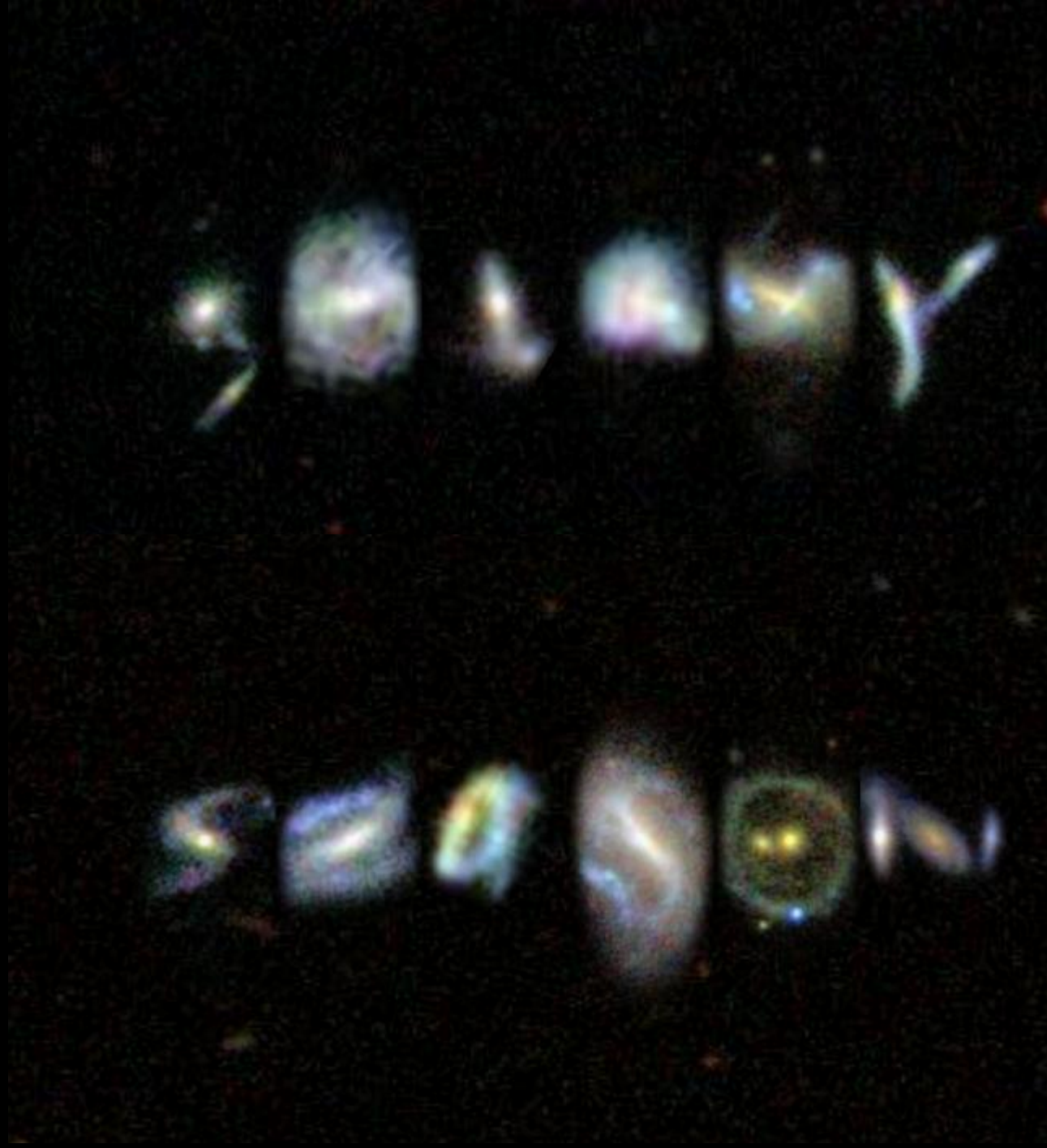



SDO HMI 10-Feb-2026
4374
4373
4367
4366
4369
4368
4371
10 Earth
Earth
Jupiter


Seestar S50
Solar
stacked/00°W,52°N/2026-02-22 14:41


DEEP SKY

So, what to observe?


GALAXY
EVOLUTION

North

Object	Type	Constellation	Notes
Galaxy	M81	Ursa Major	Bright spiral, great structure
Galaxy	M82	Ursa Major	Edge-on starburst, pairs with M81
Galaxy	NGC 2403	Camelopardalis	Underrated spiral, easy in mid-aperture
Galaxy	NGC 3077	Ursa Major	Companion to M81/M82
Nebula	IC 342	Camelopardalis	Low surface brightness 'Hidden Galaxy'
Cluster / Asterism	NGC 188	Cepheus	Ancient open cluster near Polaris
Cluster / Asterism	Kemble's Cascade	Camelopardalis	Beautiful asterism flowing into NGC 1502

East

Object	Type	Constellation	Notes
Galaxy	M51	Canes Venatici	Whirlpool Galaxy, rising late evening
Galaxy	M101	Ursa Major	Large, low surface brightness
Galaxy	NGC 4565	Coma Berenices	Needle Galaxy, razor-thin
Galaxy	NGC 4631	Canes Venatici	Whale Galaxy
Galaxy	NGC 4656	Canes Venatici	Hockey Stick Galaxy
Nebula	IC 405	Auriga	Flaming Star Nebula
Nebula	IC 410	Auriga	Tadpoles Nebula
Nebula	IC 443	Gemini	Jellyfish Nebula
Cluster	M35	Gemini	Rich open cluster
Cluster	NGC 2158	Gemini	Dense, faint companion to M35
Cluster	M36	Auriga	Auriga cluster
Cluster	M37	Auriga	Auriga cluster
Cluster	M38	Auriga	Auriga cluster

South

Object	Type	Constellation	Notes
Galaxy	M65	Leo	Part of Leo Triplet
Galaxy	M66	Leo	Part of Leo Triplet
Galaxy	NGC 3628	Leo	'Hamburger Galaxy', Leo Triplet
Galaxy	M95	Leo	Bright Leo group
Galaxy	M96	Leo	Bright Leo group
Galaxy	M105	Leo	Elliptical with companions
Galaxy	NGC 2903	Leo	Excellent barred spiral
Galaxy	Virgo Cluster	Virgo	M84, M86, Markarian's Chain
Galaxy	M104	Virgo	Sombrero Galaxy, low but visible late month
Nebula	NGC 3242	Hydra	Ghost of Jupiter planetary nebula
Nebula	NGC 2392	Gemini	Eskimo Nebula, good early March
Cluster	M44	Cancer	Beehive Cluster, huge and bright
Cluster	M67	Cancer	Compact, older open cluster

West

Object	Type	Constellation	Notes
Galaxy	M33	Triangulum	Triangulum Galaxy, low but catchable
Galaxy	M74	Pisces	Very faint, low surface brightness
Galaxy	NGC 772	Aries	Asymmetric spiral
Nebula	M42/M43	Orion	Orion Nebula, still superb early evening
Nebula	Horsehead & Flame	Orion	Low but possible with filters
Nebula	Rosette Nebula	Monoceros	Large, great for wide-field
Nebula	Barnard's Loop	Orion	Wide-field imaging target
Cluster	M45	Taurus	Pleiades
Cluster	Hyades	Taurus	Huge V-shape
Cluster	NGC 1981	Orion	Above M42
Cluster	NGC 1662	Orion	Small but charming

Dark Site Observing

- TBA

As always, updates via email…

2nd date is only run if 1st date does not

Observatory Observing

- TBA

As always, updates via email...

KEEP LOOKING UP!

SEND YOUR OBSERVING REPORTS TO THE WEBSITE!!!