

# TONIGHT'S SKY



September  
2016

1

00:00:08,740 --> 00:00:14,760

Your guide to constellations, deep-sky objects, planets, and events.

2

00:00:14,760 --> 00:00:38,690

Tonight's Sky, highlights of the September Sky.

3

00:00:38,690 --> 00:00:45,040

If you have a clear view to the west, you might be able to spot Venus hanging low over

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00:00:45,040 --> 00:00:53,280

the horizon right after sunset.

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00:00:53,280 --> 00:01:07,280

Catch a quick look through a telescope if you can.

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00:01:07,280 --> 00:01:13,380

After nightfall, look for Mars and Saturn in the southwestern sky.

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00:01:13,380 --> 00:01:19,159

The two planets will move farther apart as the month progresses, with Saturn setting

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00:01:19,159 --> 00:01:26,950

well before Mars in late September.

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00:01:26,950 --> 00:01:47,880

Use a telescope to get a better view of the planets before they dip below the horizon.

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00:01:47,880 --> 00:01:52,350

September nights feature the "wet quarter" of the sky.

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00:01:52,350 --> 00:01:59,189

Two neighboring constellations bear ancient references to water.

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00:01:59,189 --> 00:02:07,770

Aquarius is one of the oldest constellations, recognized even by early civilizations.

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00:02:07,770 --> 00:02:13,930

In ancient mythologies, Aquarius is the god of the waters.

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00:02:13,930 --> 00:02:18,330

Look for the Water Jar, a group of stars shaped like a "Y."

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00:02:21,200 --> 00:02:27,440

A rich, compact cluster of stars can be seen in Aquarius.

16

00:02:27,440 --> 00:02:38,000

Known as M2, it contains about 150,000 stars located about 37,500 light-years away.

17

00:02:38,600 --> 00:02:41,000

Binoculars present it well,

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00:02:41,000 --> 00:02:57,340

but a small telescope reveals much more detail in the cluster's compact center.

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00:02:57,340 --> 00:03:03,200

Nearby lies the great constellation Capricornus.

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00:03:03,200 --> 00:03:09,940

Known in mythology as the Water Goat, it represents a creature that fed and watered the infant

21

00:03:09,940 --> 00:03:16,010

Zeus, ruler of the Greek gods.

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00:03:16,010 --> 00:03:21,010

Algedi is the brightest star in Capricornus.

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00:03:21,010 --> 00:03:27,800

It's visible in binoculars as an elongated star.

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00:03:27,800 --> 00:03:31,480

This odd shape is due to a visual trick.

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00:03:31,480 --> 00:03:39,160

From our distant vantage point, two unrelated stars appear to be close together.

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00:03:39,160 --> 00:03:46,900

Capricornus also hosts a dense cluster of stars, M30.

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00:03:46,900 --> 00:04:16,000

A small telescope easily resolves individual stars in the cluster.

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00:04:16,000 --> 00:04:29,100

Late in the month, dim Mercury makes a brief appearance in the eastern sky just before sunrise.

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00:04:29,159 --> 00:04:47,830

If you spot it, aim a telescope at Mercury to get a slightly better look.

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00:04:47,830 --> 00:04:54,139

On September 1st, skywatchers in parts of Africa will see the Moon pass directly in

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00:04:54,139 --> 00:04:59,449

front of the Sun, creating an annular solar eclipse.

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00:04:59,449 --> 00:05:05,169

During an annular solar eclipse, the Moon is farther away from Earth than during a total

33  
00:05:05,169 --> 00:05:14,240  
solar eclipse, so it appears smaller and doesn't completely cover the Sun.

34  
00:05:14,240 --> 00:05:24,939  
A partial solar eclipse will be visible from most of the African continent.