

Our Night Sky for January 27th, 2025

The next few days may present a night sky treat. If all the pieces line up, a winter evening could be an opportunity to see most of the planets in our solar system. Starting after six pm if you have a good view of the western horizon you will see a prominent Venus trailing the sunset. And very nearby, Saturn is sliding toward setting at about eight pm. Venus is one of the brightest objects in our night sky so look a bit below Venus for the added treat of Saturn. This close to the horizon Saturn may even be a bit magnified by our atmosphere. Now if you look due east well above the horizon Mars is close to the bright stars at the head of Gemini, Pollux and Castor. Now look a bit right of Gemini and easily spotted is Orion the guardian of our winter skies. Orion has many beautiful sights, starting with upper left shoulder you find Betelgeuse and lower right another of the brightest stars in our night sky, Rigel. If you have good steady binoculars, you might even see the misty marvel of the Orion Nebula just below Orion's three-star belt. This is a star building nebula and also where the horsehead nebula is located. But leave all that for a moment and look above Orion to locate mighty Jupiter. Uranus is about a palm width to the right of Jupiter and Neptune is barely left of Venus, but both those outer planets will need a small telescope. Truly a memorable evening under Our Night Sky.