

Our Night Sky for May 19 th, 2025

I might be stretching the description “Our Night Sky “a little bit this week but I am talking to the people that are planning travel this summer to destinations in our southern hemisphere. If you are planning travel this summer to Australia, Africa or South America there are sights in the southern skies you will never see from your backyard in Prince George.

If you could plan a trip that would give you the best night sky opportunities a good place to start would be a search for world sky glow maps. And as you would guess the middle of either Africa, Australia or the center of the Amazon rain forest have the least sky glow. I’m not sure I could talk myself into a trek in the Amazon jungle, and Australia has too many animals that want to kill you so a nice civilized African safari into the Congo would have the best chance to be under extremely dark skies.

But seriously there are many destinations that are not as built up as North American cities. Avoiding travel in the United States for now you may be planning a vacation in Mexico or several central American destinations. If you are fortunate to be traveling closer to or south of the equator, please print up a couple of southern sky maps. There are two nearby and easy to spot galaxies, the large and small Magellanic clouds, our closest stellar neighbor Alpha Centauri and even a few constellations that are also in northern skies are but are upside down. Truly different from Our Night Sky.