

Our Night Sky for June 22nd, 2025

Yesterday June 21st, as well as my birthday also marks the northern hemisphere summer solstice. This day each year the sun reaches its maximum elevation at local noon as the sun reaches its northern maximum extension from the equator. The precise position of the sun at summer solstice has been identified and celebrated for centuries as the beginning of summer. Monuments all over the world have marked the exact same the day the sun aligns with giant stones or shines down narrow corridors to illuminate symbols important to their culture.

There are four keystone days during the year. The longest and the shortest are the easier to identify but midway between these special days were the spring and fall equinox when day and night were equal length.

These long days give way to short nights. There is not a lot of dark to enjoy summer skies. But even as the sky is only partly darkened, the bright stars of the constellations will stand out, this is a good time to brush up on some of the familiar sights even as the last of sunset's glow drops below the northwestern horizon and the new day is already lightening the north east. The stars of the constellation Lyra and the bright star Vega should stand out overhead. Try spotting Lyra earlier each evening, it will usually be the first star to jump out of the darkening sky. From there look north and see if you can spot the big dipper and the north star, Polaris. Finding these tricky sights is a great way to enjoy Our Night Sky.