

Our Night Sky for July 7th, 2025

In northern B.C. the opportunity to sit back and enjoy our night sky is fairly rare and at this time of the year it is pretty late. For example, tonight it's not technically night until two minutes past midnight. It is officially night at the end of Nautical twilight at 12:02 when the sun is completely below the northwest horizon. Night only lasts two hours and thirty-one minutes tonight and we reach nautical twilight start. The cycle of evening starts with sunset at 9:41 followed at 10:35 by the end of civil twilight and then nautical twilight ends at 12:03. All of these stages are related to how far the sun is below the horizon and I understand mainly measured because of regulations for safety and security at night.

As I've suggested before, for most of these summer evenings you're limited to the brightest of stars in some of the easy to find constellations and tonight offers several.

Again, almost straight above you is the constellation Lyra and the bright star Vega, always a good start because Vega is bright enough you can usually spot it first while the sky is still blue and the sun is just below the horizon. The time I'm looking at is between 10:30 and 11:00 pm. Turn toward the eastern horizon and look lower toward the horizon couple of hand widths and a little left where you can find Deneb in the kite shaped Cygnus and to the right a couple of hand widths the bright star Altair in the bird shaped Aquila. The summer triangle, see how early you can spot it in Our Night Sky.