

Our Night Sky for December 29th, 2025

I have not seen the clear crisp skies I predicted in the last few days but let's stay optimistic, and be ready to spot some objects in several directions in case there are on spotty patches of clear sky. First look north west a little above the horizon any night this week. You should see a summer object very familiar all summer long. The small parallelogram with the attached bright star Vega in the constellation Lyra. At this time of year just days past winter solstice Lyra is at its most northern point. Visualize a great circular path back up to the zenith where it was most of the summer and continue the circle down to and briefly below the eastern horizon. And back up to the position of Lyra. Now imagine another circle using a star just above north let's use the last star in the handle of the big dipper. Everything inside that circle does not set they are referred to as circum-polar.

Now let's check the other extreme. Look south to find Orion, as mentioned before Orion is just a few degree's above the horizon at it's highest point during December, Any constellation further south of Orion do not ever rise into our skies. So, a circle described by Orion would be the approximate southern limit of stars that appear in our skies for brief periods determined by the position of the earth during it's annual journey around the sun. Some are up for several months and some as briefly as a month. So, when conditions are right try and catch a look at our night sky