

## Our Night Sky for February 23 rd, 2026

We are a bit lacking on opportunities to look at planets currently. We still have a lovely view of Jupiter high in the southeast right between the twins of Gemini. You may notice that it is following the ecliptic and advancing a bit further west every night. We may not see it reach its highest point due south because in the next few weeks we be seeing sunset later each night, we are only a month until the spring equinox with equal day and night. You may have seen articles predicting a planetary parade close to the end of February. I'm sorry to disappoint you but that is mainly just science writers looking for something exciting to write about. The night sky will only be slightly different from every night this week. By the sun sets at approximately 6:45, Mars has already set, Mercury, Saturn and Venus are very close to the setting sun. If you see Saturn about 10 degrees above west and you have your binoculars handy, you might catch sight of the furthest planet Neptune in the same binocular field. So, the only planet that might be viewable is the planet Uranus a few degrees above Orion a slightly blue unblinking "apparent star" Uranus. If your outside after 7 pm the only planet, will be the same planet you spotted earlier this week and last. Mighty Jupiter still between the twins of Gemini.

I had intended to talk about distances this week but I'm afraid we don't have time for that. Distances to even nearby stars, are so vast there is no simple meaningful comparisons I can make. Another mystery of Our Night Sky