

## Our Night Sky for March 16 th,2026

As it has been for several weeks now, Jupiter is still sitting between the Gemini twins. Uranus is a hand width above Orion and just right of Taurus but a challenging target. By the time it is comfortably dark Neptune has already set. Venus is even better separated from the sun and until about 8:30 still visible above due west. As we move closer to the Vernal or spring equinox the time the sun sets is later and later. If you have been watching the slow changes as summer skies replace winter constellations I remind you to keep checking Orion as it leaves its dominance of our southern sky and as the weeks continue closer to setting before it is dark. The other seasonal marker I have pointed to is Lyra now a few degrees above our northern horizon.

The spring equinox is about a week away, this is when the sun crosses the celestial equator. Due to slight differences in our calendar and the actual movement of the sun these events are not always on the same day. Spring equinox occurs at 7:46 am on March 20 th this year in British Columbia. Of course equal day and night only happens if you live close to the equator. But it is close, sun rise is at 7:13 am and sunset is at 7:25 pm. We are now moving into longer daylight hours and in June the longest daylight hours of the year. This is always the best time of the year with pleasant temperate evenings and very little dust in the air from industry and best of all , no mosquitoes. Now is the time to step outside and enjoy Our Night Sky