

Our Night Sky for July 20 th, 2026

We are still not seeing many planets but if you want to continue following Venus it is still setting about 45 minutes after sunset, so you might be able to spot Venus hovering a bit above the western horizon at about 10:15. If you really want to catch another planet, Mars rises after 2 am tomorrow morning in the northeast. Neptune rises just after midnight due east. Normally I wouldn't suggest Neptune, but you might spot an especially bright steady "star" due east at about midnight that will likely be Neptune, with Saturn not far behind.

I'm going to suggest a difficult challenge object this week. If you find yourself under really dark clear skies, and manage to find the Andromeda galaxy you will be rewarded knowing you are seeing light from the furthest object that can be seen with the naked eye. Andromeda is two and a half million light years from earth. It is also the object that Edwin Hubble measured and determined the universe was much larger than we had understood.

Look up from northeast. Well above the horizon you will find the W of Cassiopeia. The lower right star of the W is the brightest star in Cassiopeia. Follow a line down and slightly right until you meet another star, about the same brightness as the star you started at. This star is the middle star in a horizontal line of three stars that are part of another constellation, Andromeda. As you were panning down to find this bright star you passed a vertical line of two more stars. Slowly move your eyes up to the top star and a little beyond. This is where the fuzzy faint galaxy of Andromeda is in Our Night Skies.