

Our Night Sky for August 3rd, 2026

Tonight, and most of the week the planets are either in opposition and passing very close to the sun or rise very early in the day. Venus sets a couple of hours after the sun and has good illumination right now. If you have a good view of due west, check Venus in your binoculars. This is a good time to spot the phase of Venus. It is very similar to the moon's phases, and you should be able to see how the sun is illuminating the crescent shape of Venus. After 11:45 Saturn rises due east and joins a third quarter moon. From these border line planetary views I would suggest turn and look high overhead for Vega and the kite shaped constellation Lyra. If you haven't spotted the ring nebula this might be the night and make up for your limited luck tonight with planets. Remember a round fuzzy patch about a third of the way across the lower bar of Lyra. My daughter used to call it the exploding Cheerio. That is close, it is the remnant of a star that exploded hundreds of years ago, still expanding.

We should be able to spot a very special event, Tuesday August 4th at about 11:30. Unless I've missed something, there has never been a man-made object strike the visible side of the moon. Other places will see this event, but we have the benefit of a fully set sun. My information is it will strike the upper right near the illuminated limb at 11:34 local time. It is a space X booster that is about five stories tall. Bring binoculars It should be a spectacular sight in Our Night Sky.