

Our Night Sky for August 31 st. 2026

September is upon us. It seems such a short time ago I was describing the upcoming spring equinox. We are now just three weeks away from the autumnal equinox, on the 22nd of September. This marks the sun directly over the equator and we have almost equal length day and night. It also marks the first day of autumn and the coming of cooler weather. Which means it is time to get those summer projects you have been putting off looked after before it will be uncomfortable out in the cold .

The planets are mostly still close to the sun and not in the night sky for a few weeks yet. Saturn is still up after about 9:30 in the south east but close to a pretty bright moon for most of the night. Neptune is slightly right of Saturn but with the bright moon nearby it would be difficult even with a telescope.

You may remember the three bright stars overhead , the summer triangle, Altair, Deneb and Vega. And they make it easy to find Lyra and Cygnus the swan with its wings spread wide overhead . There is only a brief window each summer to spot the teapot Sagittarius just above the southern horizon. If you are under dark clear skies Sagittarius is approximately the center of our galaxy and with good sky you can see the great globe of stars that are toward the core from earth and most nights you should be able to see the great bands of stars that are the Milky Way. All these amazing sights are there for you in Our Night Sky.