

Our Night Sky for September 21 st, 2026

As it has been for several weeks now the night sky has almost no planets to look for. But there is a lovely star grouping I will tell you about in a moment. The event most noteworthy this week is the transition to fall with the fall equinox, technically this Wednesday at five minutes past midnight universal time. Which translates to Tuesday September 22 Nd at 5:05 pm in British Columbia. This is the moment the sun crosses the equator giving use almost equal day and night. And the sun continues sliding south and reaches its southern maximum at the winter solstice on December 21st at 1:50 pm.

Next, I suggest you look for a slightly more difficult object but very worth the effort. After about 10 pm any night this week look a little above and left of due east, about 20 degrees above the horizon you should se a small group of blue stars. It is a small cluster sometimes called the seven sisters or the jewel box. If you brought your binoculars, you would soon see why it is called the jewel box. Seven or more brilliant blue stars all just on the edge of naked eye visibility. If you're lucky enough to see them through a small telescope you should see some of the blue gaseous cloud they are in. The bright young stars cause the gas to glow. Depending on how clear and dark the sky is and the quality of the optics you are using this will show you some of the bright relatively young stars about 400 light years away in a cluster of about 1000 stars, a gem in our night sky.