

Finding the Planets

Use the charts below to find the approximate location of a planet. If the month is blank the planet is not easily visible. Compare the constellation's stars you see in the sky to the star charts on pages 10 and 11. The bright "star" that is not printed on the star chart will be the planet. Look for Mercury and Venus near the horizon in the morning about an hour before Sunrise (East) or in the evening about an hour after Sunset (West). Look for Mercury a few days before or after the date listed. Here is a tip: planets do not "twinkle"; stars do.

An easy to use monthly star chart showing constellations, planets and other objects may be downloaded from www.skymaps.com

To make your own accurate sky charts and find the exact location of a planet on any day from any location in the world, you can download the following free planetarium software.

Cartes du Ciel: <http://www.stargazing.net/astropc>

Hallo Northern Sky: <http://www.hnsky.org/software.htm>

2009

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
MERCURY	4th Eve.	13th Morn.		26th Eve.		13th Morn.
VENUS	Evening	Evening			Morning	Morning
MARS						Aries
JUPITER				Capricornus	Capricornus	Capricornus
SATURN	Leo	Leo	Leo	Leo	Leo	Leo
	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
MERCURY		24th Eve.		6th Eve.		18th Eve.
VENUS	Morning	Morning	Morning			
MARS	Taurus	Taurus	Gemini	Cancer	Cancer	Leo
JUPITER	Capricornus	Capricornus	Capricornus	Capricornus	Capricornus	Capricornus
SATURN	Leo				Virgo	Virgo

2010

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
MERCURY	27th Morn.			8th Eve.	26th Morn.	
VENUS			Evening	Evening	Evening	Evening
MARS	Cancer	Cancer	Cancer	Cancer	Leo	Leo
JUPITER	Aquarius				Pisces	Pisces
SATURN	Virgo	Virgo	Virgo	Virgo	Virgo	Virgo
	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
MERCURY		7th Eve.	19th Morn.			1st Eve.
VENUS	Evening	Evening	Evening			Morning
MARS	Leo	Virgo	Virgo	Libra		
JUPITER	Pisces	Pisces	Pisces	Aquarius	Aquarius	Aquarius
SATURN	Virgo	Virgo				Virgo