



Space Astronomy August 8 – August 15, 2026

Welcome to a truly historic week in our night skies! Over the next few days, three major cosmic events are happening all at once: a six-planet alignment, a rare solar eclipse, and the brightest meteor shower of the year.



1. The Six-Planet Parade (Best View: Early Morning)

Six of our solar system neighbors are lining up across the sky.

The Lineup: Jupiter, Mercury, Mars, Uranus, Saturn, and Neptune. How to see them: Look toward the eastern sky just before dawn. Naked Eye: Jupiter, Mars, and Saturn will look like bright, steady stars.

With Help: You will need binoculars to spot Uranus and a telescope to see distant Neptune.

2. The Perseid Meteor Shower (Best View: Late Night)

This is the most popular meteor shower of the year, and conditions this week are perfect. The Peak: The best viewing is overnight on **Wednesday, August 12, into Thursday, August 13.**

What to expect: You can see up to 100 shooting stars per hour. Perfect Dark Skies: Because there is a New Moon this week, the sky will be completely dark, making the meteors look incredibly bright. You do not need telescopes or binoculars. Just find a comfortable lawn chair, look straight up, and let your eyes adjust to the dark for 15 minutes.

3. The Rare Solar Eclipse (Wednesday, August 12)

The Moon will pass directly between the Earth and the Sun.

The Path: Total darkness (totality) will happen over Greenland, Iceland, and Spain.

North America View: Here in the US, we will experience a partial eclipse. In MN, it will look like a small "bite" is missing from the sun.

Safety First: Never look directly at the sun without certified eclipse safety glasses!



Other Cosmic Highlights This Week

Friday, August 14: Look to the western sky right after sunset to see Venus shining at its absolute brightest.

Saturday, August 15: Jupiter and Mercury will appear side-by-side in the early morning sky, looking like a pair of bright cosmic twins.



Planet & Moon Punnies

How do you organize a space party? You planet.

Why did the moon skip dinner? It was full.

What kind of music do planets sing? Nep-tunes.

Why is Venus so loud? Saturn rings.

How does the moon cut his hair? Eclipse it.

Why did Mickey Mouse go to space? To find Pluto.

Why did Earth break up with Mars? No atmosphere.

Why did the sun go to school? To get brighter

Why can't you tell secrets in space? no atmosphere.

What is an astronaut's favorite key? The space bar.

How do astronauts serve dinner? On flying saucers.

Why did the astronaut look for milk? To find the Milky Way.

What do lazy astronauts do? Take up space.

How do you know when space is dirty? You see dust.

Why did the rocket get fired? It lacked drive.

What is an astronaut's favorite chocolate? A Mars bar.

How do astronauts say sorry? They Apollo-gize.

What do aliens put in hot chocolate? Marsh-martians.

Why did the star go to jail? It was shooting.

Where do aliens park spaceship? At parking meteors.

What is a constellation's favorite game? Connect the dots.

Why are aliens so good at golf? Great drives.

What do you call a ticking star? A time bomb.

Why did the alien cross the road? To find space.

What do stars like to read? Comic books.

Why did the alien visit the doctor? He felt green.

What do you call a funny star? A bright spark.

