

Astronomy targets: February 2018

Unless stated otherwise, all times are for mid-month, for Birmingham UK and are GMT. Rise & set times are for 20 degrees above horizon. Dark & light times are nautical twilight times (Sun 12 degrees below horizon) and astronomical darkness (Sun 18 degrees below horizon).

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Sun times

Monday date	Sunset	Naut Dark	Astro Dark	Astro Light	Naut Light	Sunrise	Moon	Moon %
05/02/18	1701	1819	1858	0544	0624	0741	2325 →	67%
12/02/18	1715	1831	1910	0533	0612	0728	0613 →	8%
19/02/18	1728	1843	1922	0520	0559	0714	← 2136	17%
26/02/18	1741	1855	1935	0505	0545	0659	← 0533	88%

Calendar

15 Feb New Moon

Planets

Mars (low at Sunrise)
Jupiter (0520-Sunrise)
Saturn (low at Sunrise)
Uranus (Sunset-2040)

Lacerta Sunset-1950 & 0540-Sunrise

Open cluster: NGC7243 (C16)

Cassiopeia Sunset-0150 & 0420-Sunrise

Emission nebulae:

NGC281 Pacman Nebula
NGC7635 (C11) Bubble Nebula
IC1805 Heart Nebula
IC1848 Soul Nebula

Open clusters:

M52
M103
NGC457 (C13) Owl cluster
NGC654
NGC659
NGC663 (C10)
NGC7789
NGC7790

Multiple star: η-Cas (eta-Cas) gold & red

Andromeda Sunset-2050

Planetary nebula: NGC7662 (C22) Blue Snowball

Open cluster: NGC752 (C28)

Galaxies:

M31, M32 & M110 Andromeda Galaxy
NGC404 Mirach's Ghost
NGC891 (C23)

Multiple star: Almaak γ-And (gamma-And) gold & green

Triangulum Sunset-2240

Galaxy: M33 Triangulum Galaxy

Aries Sunset-2140

Multiple star: Σ326 orange & red

Perseus Sunset-0030

Emission nebula: NGC1499 California Nebula

Planetary nebula: M76 Little Dumbell Nebula

Open clusters:

M34
NGC869 & NGC884 (C14) Double Cluster
NGC1528
NGC1582
Melotte 20

Multiple star: η-Per (eta-Per) gold & blue

Eridanus partly visible, best 1850

Planetary nebula: NGC1535

Taurus Sunset-2220, best 1910

Planetary nebulae:

M1 Crab Nebula
NGC1514

Open clusters:

M45 Pleiades
NGC1647
Melotte 25 Hyades

Camelopardalis all night, best 1910

Galaxy: NGC2403 (C7)

Asterism: Kemble's Cascade & NGC1502 cluster

Auriga Sunset-0200, best 1940

Emission nebula: IC405 (C31) Flaming Star Nebula

Open clusters:

M36
M37
M38

Multiple star: OΣ147 yellowish & two blue

Orion Sunset-2220, best 2000

Emission nebulae:

NGC2024 Flame Nebula
NGC2174 Monkey Head Nebula
IC434 Horsehead Nebula

Reflection nebulae:

M42 & M43 Orion Nebula
M78
NGC1977 Running Man

Open clusters:

NGC1662
NGC1981

Multiple star: Trapezium θ1-Ori (theta-1-Ori) four white

Lepus low, best 2030

Globular cluster: M79

Coloured star: Hind's Crimson Star R-Lep

Gemini Sunset-0200, best 2100

Planetary nebula: NGC2392 (C39) Eskimo Nebula

Open cluster: M35

Multiple star: Castor α-Gem (alpha-Gem) two blue

Monoceros 1940-2340, best 2140

Emission nebula: NCG2239 Rosette Nebula

Reflection nebula: NGC2261 (C46) Hubble's Variable Nebula

Open clusters:

M50
NGC2232
NGC2264

Multiple star: β-Mon (beta-Mon) three blue

Puppis partly visible, best 2200

Open clusters:

M46
M47
M93
NGC2539

Hydra partly visible, best 2300

Globular cluster: M68

Open cluster: M48

Galaxy: M83

Cancer 1840-0310, best 2330

Open clusters:

M44 Beehive Cluster
M67

Multiple star: ι-Cnc (iota-Cnc) gold & blue

Lynx all night, best 2350

Globular cluster: NGC2419 (C25)

Leo 2120-0520, best 0050

Galaxies

M65, M66 & NGC3628 Leo Triplet
M95
M96
M105 & NGC3384

Multiple star: Algieba γ -Leo (gamma-Leo) two yellow

Ursa Major 1940-Sunrise, best 0240

Planetary nebula: M97 Owl Nebula

Galaxies:

M81 Bode's Galaxy & M82 Cigar Galaxy
M101 Pinwheel Galaxy
M108
M109

Multiple star: Mizar & Alcor ζ -UMa (zeta-UMa) 3 white

Canes Venatici 2020-Sunrise, best 0330

Globular cluster: M3

Galaxies:

M51 Whirlpool Galaxy
M63 Sunflower Galaxy
M94
M106
NGC4631 Whale Galaxy

Coloured star: La Superba γ -CVn carbon star

Multiple star: Cor Caroli α -CVn (alpha-CVn) yellow & orange

Coma Berenices 2220-Sunrise, best 0340

Globular cluster: M53

Open clusters: Melotte 111

Galaxies:

M64 Black Eye Galaxy
M85
M88
M91
M98
M99
M100
NGC4565 Needle Galaxy

Virgo 0220-0600, best 0350

Galaxies:

M49
M58
M59
M60
M61
M84, M86, NGC4435, etc. Markarian's Chain
M87
M89
M90
M104 Sombrero Galaxy

Boötes 2310-Sunrise, best 0450

Multiple star: ξ -Boo (xi-Boo) yellow & orange

Ursa Minor all night, best 0510

Multiple star: Polaris α -UMi (alpha-UMi) yellow & white

Draco 2320-Sunrise

Planetary nebula: NGC6543 Cats Eye Nebula

Galaxy: M102

Hercules 0220-Sunrise

Globular clusters:

M13 Hercules Globular Cluster
M92

Lyra 0250-Sunrise

Planetary nebula: M57 Ring Nebula

Globular cluster: M56

Multiple stars:

Double-Double ϵ -Lyr (epsilon-Lyr) four white
Other Double-Double Σ 2470 & Σ 2474 four white

Sagitta 0510-Sunrise

Globular cluster: M71

Vulpecula 0420-Sunrise

Planetary nebula: M27 Dumbell Nebula

Open cluster: NGC6885 (C37)

Asterism: Coathanger

Cygnus 0440-Sunrise

Emission nebulae:

NGC6888 Crescent Nebula
NGC6960 Veil Nebula
IC5070 Pelican Nebula
IC7000 (C20) North American Nebula

Planetary nebulae:

IC5146 (C19) Cocoon Nebula
NGC6826 Blinking Nebula
NGC7008 Fetus Nebula

Open clusters:

M29
M39
NGC6871
NGC6883
NGC6910 Rocking Horse Cluster

Galaxy: NGC6946 (C12) Fireworks Galaxy

Multiple stars:

Albireo β -Cyg (beta-Cyg) gold & blue
61-Cyg orange & red

Cepheus Sunset-2350 & 0150-Sunrise

Reflection nebula: NGC7023 (C4) Iris Nebula

Open clusters:

NGC188 (C1)
NGC7160

Coloured star: Garnet Star μ -Cep (mu-Cep)

Multiple stars:

δ -Cep (delta-Cep) yellow & purple
 Σ 2816 yellow & two white

Top targets for visual observers

Cassiopeia: NGC457 (C13) Owl cluster

Andromeda: NGC7662 (C22) Blue Snowball

Andromeda: M31 Andromeda Galaxy

Perseus: NGC869 & NGC884 (C14) Double Cluster

Taurus: M45 Pleiades

Camelopardalis: Kemble's Cascade & NGC1502 cluster

Auriga: Open clusters M36, M37 & M38

Orion: M42 Orion Nebula

Lepus: Hind's Crimson Star R-Lep

Gemini: Open cluster M35

Cancer: M44 Beehive Cluster

Leo: M65, M66 & NGC3628 Leo Triplet galaxies

Canes Venatici: Globular cluster M3