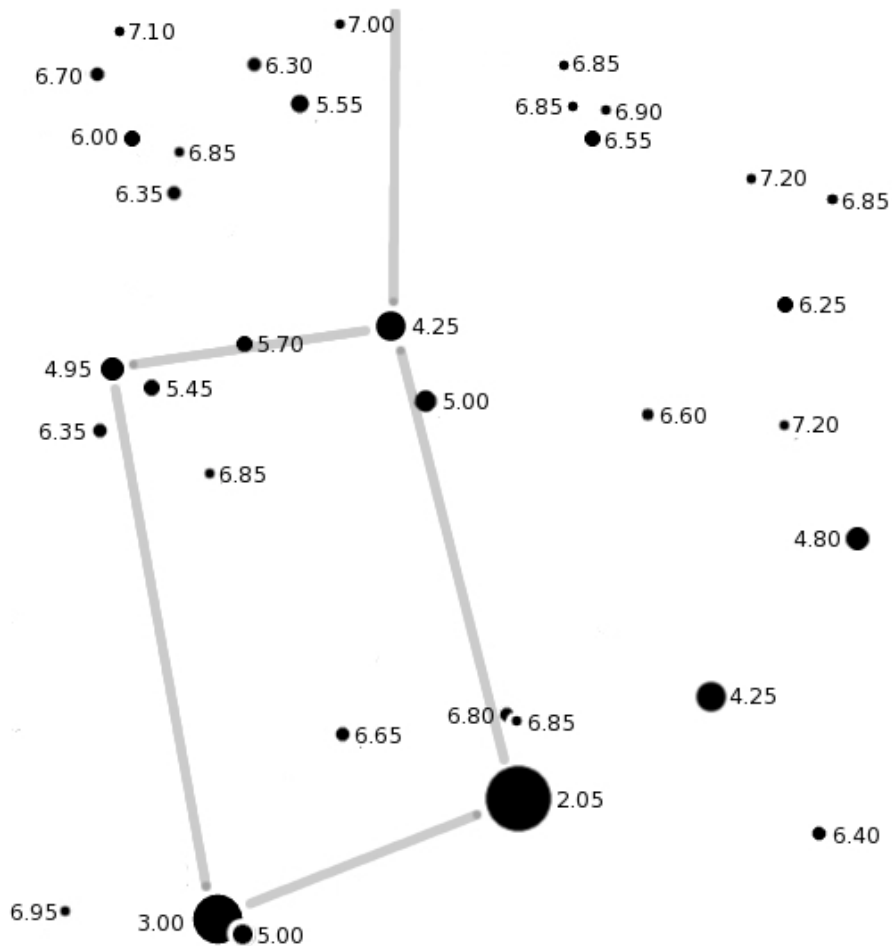


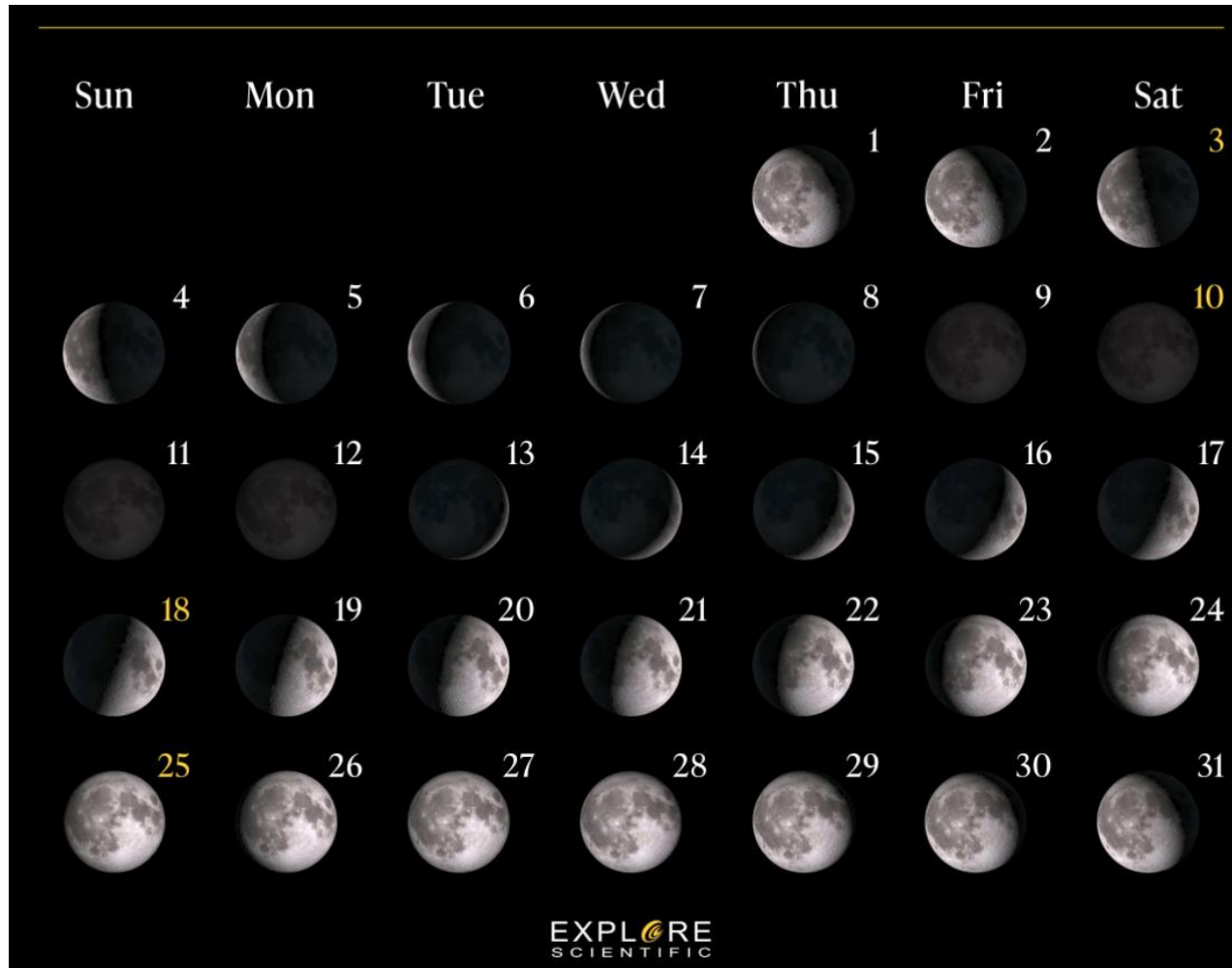
What's in the Night Sky Autumn 2026

Observing and Imaging Targets for all - Brief notes from the NAS members talk at Seething Observatory.

Judge the sky conditions at your location and your level of dark adaption using this chart of part of Ursa Minor. This is the chart that I used in the presentation.



Moon Phases October 2026



Find the Moon phases for all months through the year at:

<https://explorescientific.com/pages/2026-lunar-calendars?srsltid=AfmBOorl-jeMn8UFB7bjdXVTIYGtcox6r1eqNpSc57wOX8BmgmGzGj4j>

Planets

Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus all visible through the Autumn

To find the planets in the night sky from your location use free software such as Stellarium



<https://stellarium-web.org>

Meteor Showers

Shower	Dates	Maximum	Possible Hourly Rate	Moon Phases 2026	Comment
<i>Draconids</i>	6-10 Oct	9 Oct	10	Waning 2% Crescent	Comet 21/P Giacobini-Zinner
<i>Orionids</i>	2 Oct-2 Nov	21 Oct	15	Waxing 77% Gibbous	Fast Fine Trails -Comet Halley
<i>Taurids</i>	10 Sep-20 Nov	10 Oct	5	New Moon	Very Slow Meteors
<i>Leonids</i>	6-30 Nov	18 Nov	15	Waxing 60% Gibbous	Fat Bright Meteors – Comet Temple -Tuttle
<i>Geminids</i>	4-20 Dec	14 Dec	120	Waxing 25% Crescent	Bright Meteors short trains
<i>Ursids</i>	17-26 Dec	22 Dec	10	Waxing 94% Gibbous	Sparse Shower – Comet 8P/Tuttle

Aurora

We may get some more Aurora displays this Autumn even though the Sun is becoming less active. These free Apps are helpful in giving a quick alert to potential displays



Aurora Watch UK for IOS



My Aurora Forecast for Android

Constellations and objects for Autumn

Objects by Constellation

Green: Beginner Targets

Amber : intermediate Targets

Red: Serious Challenges

Object	Type	Common Name	Constellation	Magnitude	Comments
M31	Spiral galaxy		Andromeda	3.4	<i>Great Beginners target, visible to the naked eye on good nights, good in binoculars and small scopes</i>
M32	Dwarf Galaxy		Andromeda	8.1	<i>Excellent in binoculars even better in small fast refractors.</i>
M110	Dwarf Elliptical Galaxy		Andromeda	8.5	<i>Excellent in binoculars even better in small fast refractors.</i>
NGC 891	Edge on Spiral Galaxy	Silver Sliver	Andromeda	10.1	<i>Faint but distinctive in scopes of 8" and larger</i>
NGC404	Dwarf lenticular galaxy	Mirach's Ghost	Andromeda	11.2	<i>8" Scopes and above, use a UHC filter to see, popular imaging target</i>
NGC7662	Planetary Nebula	Blue Snowball	Andromeda	8.3	<i>8" Scopes and above, use a O3 filter to enhance</i>
G1	Extra Galactic Globular Cluster	Mayall II	Andromeda	14	<i>Very challenging target, 14" scopes and above when excellent seeing permits</i>
M52	Open Cluster	Scorpion Cluster	Cassiopeia	7.3	<i>Excellent in binoculars even better in small fast refractors.</i>
M103	Open Cluster		Cassiopeia	7.4	<i>Excellent in binoculars even better in small fast refractors.</i>
NGC7635	Emission Nebula	Bubble Nebula	Cassiopeia	10.0	<i>Challenging object to see visually , telescopes bigger than 12" required and UHC or Oxygen III filter Easy Imaging target</i>
IC1795	Emission Nebula	Fish Head Nebula	Cassiopeia	10.0	<i>Challenging object to see visually , telescopes bigger than 12" required and Oxygen III filter Easy Imaging target</i>
IC1805	Emission Nebula	Heart Nebula	Cassiopeia	6.5	<i>Challenging object to see visually , telescopes bigger than 12" required and Oxygen III filter Easy Imaging target</i>

IC63/IC59	Emission and Reflection Nebulae	Ghost of Cassiopeia	Cassiopeia	13.3	<i>Challenging object to see visually , telescopes bigger than 12" required and Oxygen III filter Slightly more challenging imaging Target</i>
NGC869/884	Open Clusters	Double Cluster	Perseus	5.3	<i>Excellent in binoculars even better in small fast refractors.</i>
M34	Open Cluster		Perseus	5.5	<i>Excellent in binoculars even better in small fast refractors.</i>
Melotte 20	Open Cluster		Perseus	6.1	<i>Excellent in binoculars even better in small fast refractors.</i>
M76	Planetary Nebula	Little Dumbbell	Perseus	10.1	<i>Easy Visual target in scopes over 6", small in smart scopes</i>
IC348	Emission Nebula		Perseus	7.3	<i>Challenging visual; target due to close proximity to the star omicron Persei, good intermediate imaging target</i>
NGC1499	Emission Nebula	California Nebula	Perseus	6.0	<i>Challenging object visually and requires an H beta filter, an easy imaging target</i>
Perseus Molecular Cloud Complex	Star Forming-Emission Nebula, Dark Nebula & Integrated Flux Nebula		Perseus	N/A	<i>A serious challenge to image!</i>

**For beginners, Magnitude can be confusing, the larger the number the fainter the object. From Seething on a good night, the faintest star that can be seen has a magnitude of 5.7. This link gives a good explanation of magnitude for those that would like to know more: <https://earthsky.org/astronomy-essentials/what-is-stellar-magnitude/>*

Clear Skies and good hunting!

Adrian