

Thanet Astronomy Group

Astronomy for Everyone in Plain English

What to see February 23rd

Planets (Venus, Mars and Saturn.)

This Morning at 5:15am

Look South at 169° and up at 19° you will see The Planet **Saturn** it is an early morning object at this time of year. It sits very low to the south and therefore has a lot of our atmosphere to contend with. It's still well worth the effort as it's rings are very open at the moment.

Saturn has many Moons, some of which are best seen when it is higher in the night sky which reduces the amount of atmosphere we have to look through.

Saturn is 10 AU's from Earth. 1 Astronomical Unit = 150 million kms, the distance between the Sun and Earth.



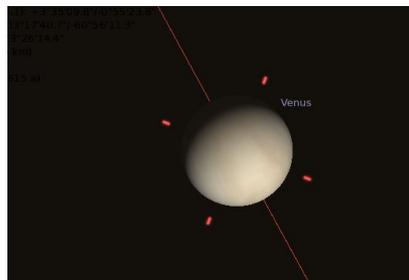
Saturn in the Southern Sky



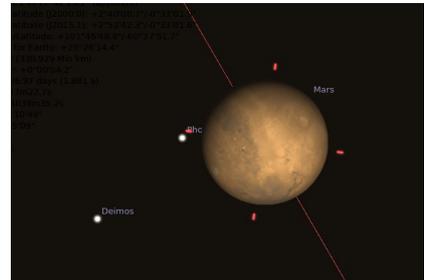
Close up of Saturn and some of its moons



Venus and Mars in the Western Sky



Close up on Venus – It has No Moons



Close up on Mars and its 2 Moons

This Evening at 6:00pm

Look West at 246° and up at 18° you will see both Venus and Mars. They are at the moment early evening objects and very close together in the sky. Venus is the brightest of the two planets. Mars is slightly lower and to the right of Venus.

Venus is the 3rd brightest object, after the Sun and Moon, in the sky and can usually be seen in a clear sky soon after Sunset or just before dawn.

Mars appears a little dimmer than Venus and will be seen more clearly as twilight approaches, Mars appears quite small because it's currently at its furthest point from Earth at 2.3 AU.

Contact us if you need help or more information.

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See us at, West Bay Cafe, CT8 8QZ. Saturdays 1-4pm.