

Thanet Astronomy Group

Astronomy for Everyone in Plain English

What to see January 26th

Constellation (Gemini)

Stars (Castor, Pollox)

Planet (Jupiter)

In November we wrote about Decembers **Geminid** meteor shower. Although the meteors appeared to originate from **Gemini**, the fact is they are within our solar system. The Earth's orbit passes through the area they are in.

Now I would like to look in more detail at the constellation of **Gemini** that is many ten's of light years away from the Earth.

At 8:00pm

Gemini Caster

Look east at 101° and up at 50° you will see the star **Castor**, also known as “Alpha Gemini” because it is the main star in the constellation **Gemini**. **Castor** is 51 light years away and appears to be one star but is part of a 6 star system.

Gemini Pollux

Look east at 103° and up at 46° you will see the star **Pollux**, it's the brightest star in Gemini and is also known as “Beta Gemini”. It lies 34 light years from us .



Looking South-East The Constellation Gemini and Jupiter



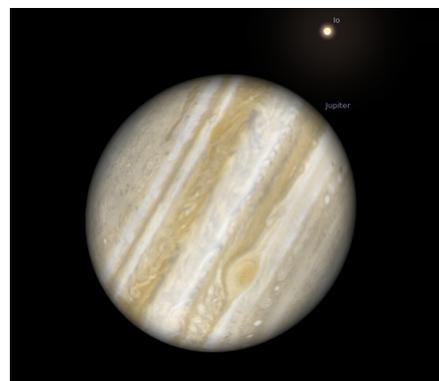
Constellation Gemini the Twins

Jupiter

Look east at 91° and up 22° you will see **Jupiter**, it's easily spotted it's the brightest object in the eastern sky. Using just binoculars or a small telescope you should be able to see 3 of its larger moons they will look like tiny bright stars. At 8:00pm the 4th large moon Io is about to pass behind Jupiter and will have reappeared by 11:30pm. With a bigger telescope you could see the Great Red Spot from 7:00pm till 10:00pm.



Jupiter and its moons



Jupiter close up and the Great Red Spot

Contact us if you need help or more information.

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See us at, West Bay Cafe, CT8 8QZ. Saturdays 1-4pm. **Contact us if you need help or more information.**