

Thanet Astronomy Group

Astronomy for Everyone in Plain English

What to see October 25th

Planets (Saturn, Uranus, Neptune)

Open cluster (Pleiades)

Saturday 25th you may be able to see a Lunar Occultation. The planet Saturn will pass behind The Moon.

Saturn will start to disappear behind the left hand side, unlit part of the Moon at 5:07pm, during daylight. 60 Minutes later, at 6:07pm it will start to reappear on the other side. It will now be darker but the Moon will be very low and the Sun will only just have dropped below the horizon.

DO NOT TURN A TELESCOPE TOWARD THE SUN UNTIL IT HAS FULLY SET.

Beware of mistaking the Sun behind clouds, with it setting. From Thanet the Sun should be over 3° below the horizon by 6:00pm. OTHER LOCATIONS THIS TIME WILL VARY!

By Telescope

If the sky is clear and you have a view of the south west horizon. **NOT BEFORE 6:00pm.** At 6:07pm, look 236° and 4° up, there's a chance you may observe this rare event.

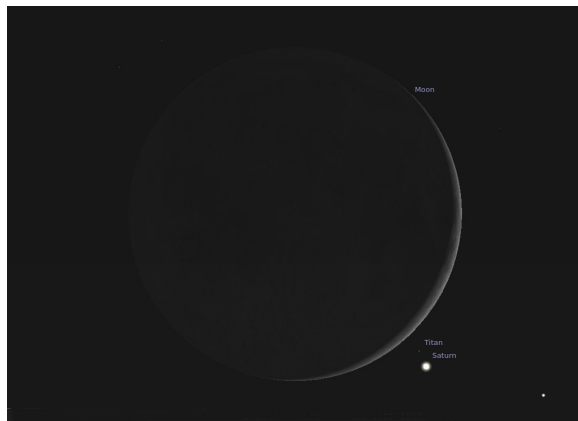
At 10:00pm

Look south, 150° and 40° up for Uranus, with luck you'll see a small green/ blue dot, too far away to see any surface detail, Uranus is 2.5 billion km away.

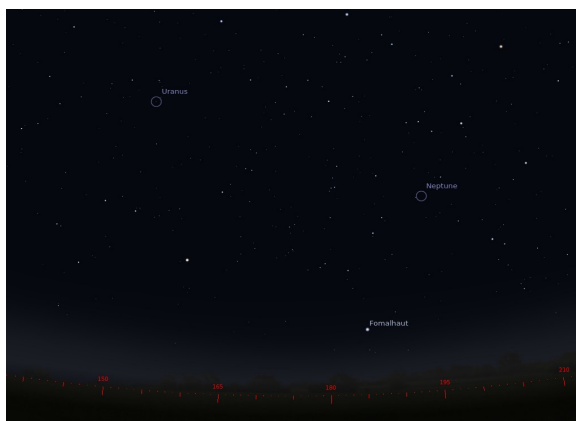
Look south, 196° and 26° up for Neptune, a blue dot. Neptune is 4.4 billion km away.



Saturn Before Occultation



After Occultation



Uranus, Neptune



Pleiades

By Eye

Look east, 92° and 33° up, you will see the Open Star Cluster Pleiades. Also called “The Seven Sisters” or M45. Through binoculars, Pleiades looks like a nebula. This is because Pleiades is passing through an interstellar gas cloud that glows blue in the light of the stars. Pleiades is 440 light years distant.

Contact us if you need help or more information.

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