

Astronomical Events of October 2020

- October 1** - **Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation.**
Mercury reaches greatest eastern elongation of 25.8 degrees from the Sun. This is the best time to view Mercury in the western sky just after sunset.
- October 7** - **Draconids Meteor Shower.**
Draconids is a minor meteor shower producing only about 10 meteors per hour. It is produced by dust grains left behind by comet 21P Giacobini-Zinner. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Draco in the early evening.
- October 13** - **Mars at Opposition.**
Mars will be at its closest approach to Earth. It will be brighter than any other time of the year and will be visible all night long.
- October 21, 22** - **Orionids Meteor Shower.**
The Orionids is an average shower producing up to 20 meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by dust grains left behind by comet Halley. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Orion after midnight.
- October 31** - **Full Moon, Blue Moon.**
Since this is the second full moon in the same month, it is sometimes referred to as a blue moon.
- October 31** - **Uranus at Opposition.**
Uranus will be at its closest approach to Earth. It will be brighter than any other time of the year and will be visible all night long.