

# Finding the Planets

Use the charts below to find the approximate location of a planet. If the month is blank the planet is not easily visible. Compare the constellation's stars you see in the sky to the star charts on pages 10 and 11. The bright "star" that is not printed on the star chart will be the planet. Look for Mercury and Venus near the horizon in the morning about an hour before Sunrise (East) or in the evening about an hour after Sunset (West). Look for Mercury a few days before or after the date listed. Here is a tip: planets do not "twinkle"; stars do.

An easy to use monthly star chart showing constellations, planets and other objects may be downloaded from [www.skymaps.com](http://www.skymaps.com)

To make your own accurate sky charts and find the exact location of a planet on any day from any location in the world, you can download the following free planetarium software.

Cartes du Ciel: <http://www.stargazing.net/astropc>

Hallo Northern Sky: <http://www.hnsky.org/software.htm>

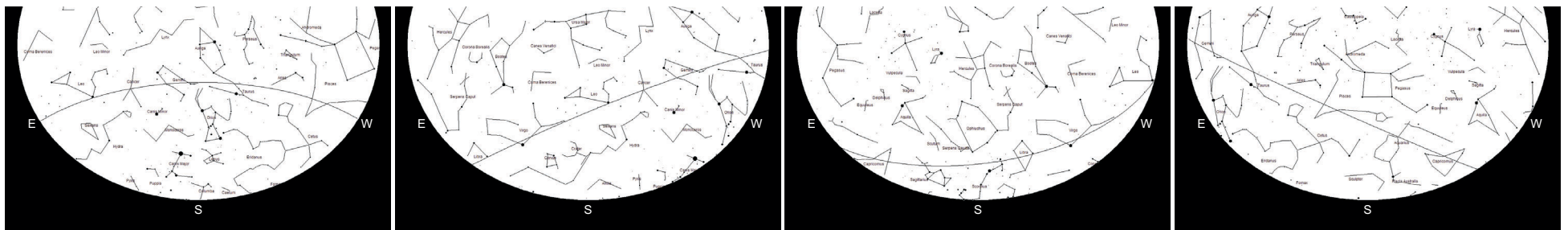
## 2009

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
<b>MERCURY</b>	4th Eve.	13th Morn.		26th Eve.		13th Morn.
<b>VENUS</b>	Evening	Evening			Morning	Morning
<b>MARS</b>						Aries
<b>JUPITER</b>				Capricornus	Capricornus	Capricornus
<b>SATURN</b>	Leo	Leo	Leo	Leo	Leo	Leo
	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>MERCURY</b>		24th Eve.		6th Eve.		18th Eve.
<b>VENUS</b>	Morning	Morning	Morning			
<b>MARS</b>	Taurus	Taurus	Gemini	Cancer	Cancer	Leo
<b>JUPITER</b>	Capricornus	Capricornus	Capricornus	Capricornus	Capricornus	Capricornus
<b>SATURN</b>	Leo				Virgo	Virgo

## 2010

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
<b>MERCURY</b>	27th Morn.			8th Eve.	26th Morn.	
<b>VENUS</b>			Evening	Evening	Evening	Evening
<b>MARS</b>	Cancer	Cancer	Cancer	Cancer	Leo	Leo
<b>JUPITER</b>	Aquarius				Pisces	Pisces
<b>SATURN</b>	Virgo	Virgo	Virgo	Virgo	Virgo	Virgo
	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>MERCURY</b>		7th Eve.	19th Morn.			1st Eve.
<b>VENUS</b>	Evening	Evening	Evening			Morning
<b>MARS</b>	Leo	Virgo	Virgo	Libra		
<b>JUPITER</b>	Pisces	Pisces	Pisces	Aquarius	Aquarius	Aquarius
<b>SATURN</b>	Virgo	Virgo				Virgo

The planets will be located close to the line, called the ecliptic, running through the star charts below. The maps are centred on the months shown in bold.



January February March April May June July August September October November December