

CAROLINA SKIES FEBRUARY-MARCH 2022

Hold this chart over your head. Find north, and align the chart accordingly. To see it while preserving your night vision, use a red light, or put a brown paper bag over your flashlight for a muted glow.

Winter constellations, Orion the Hunter, Taurus the Bull, and Gemini the Twins, begin to give way to spring patterns, Leo the Lion, Ursa Major the Great Bear, and Virgo the Maiden. Find Leo the Lion by locating the backward question mark that outlines his head and mane.

Jupiter hugs the western horizon just after sunset as February opens. Sinking lower each evening, it is lost in the solar glare around mid-month. The other naked eye planets are only for early risers now, spotted in the southeast shortly before sunrise. The brightest of these is **Venus**, with dimmer and reddish **Mars** floating below and to its right. In February, **Mercury** is seen below and to the left of Venus but disappears into the predawn twilight glow in early March – replaced by a rising **Saturn**. Venus, Mars, and Saturn cluster together with a waning crescent Moon on March 28.

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Morehead At Home -
<https://moreheadplanetarium.org/explore/morehead-at-home/>

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<http://moreheadplanetarium.org/skywatching>
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