

Three Planets Align at Dusk – Jupiter, Saturn, and Mercury

Three planets will gather tightly in the constellation Capricornus from **January 9-11** -- Jupiter, Saturn, and Mercury. Because they will be located very low in the sky shortly after sunset, you will need a very clear view toward the W-SW horizon.

Saturn will be the dimmest of the 3 planets, while Jupiter will shine the brightest. Use binoculars to help you spot them.

Speedy and elusive Mercury will be climbing higher in the evening twilight each night this month, while Jupiter and Saturn are descending toward, and disappearing below, the horizon. Watch Mercury climb from below Saturn on Jan. 9th, to halfway between the 2 larger planets on Jan. 10th, to alongside Jupiter on Jan. 11th. It's an amazing planetary dance!



Illustration courtesy of [SKY & TELESCOPE](#)

Mercury reaches its ***greatest elongation east*** of the setting Sun on **Jan. 23rd**, when it will attain its highest position in the Asheville skies for this apparition -- some 11° above the horizon about ½ hour after sunset.