

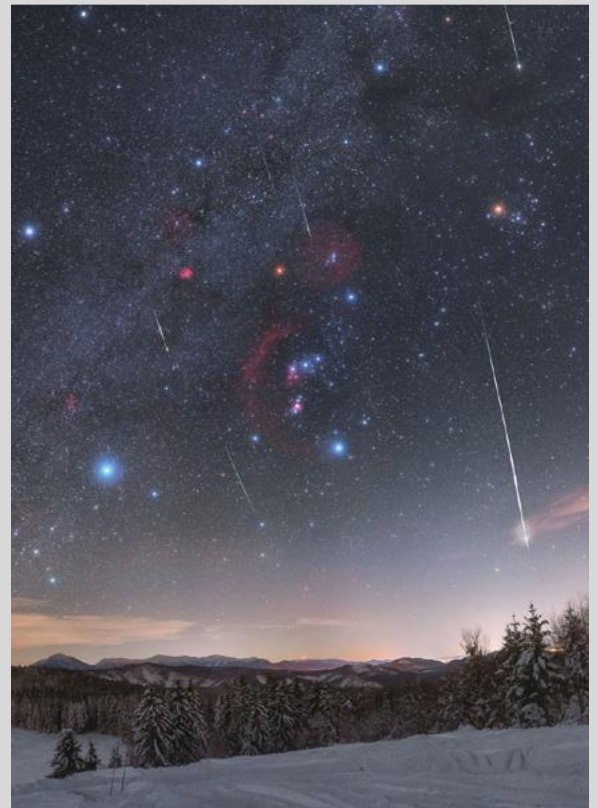
The Quadrantid Meteor Shower Peaks

January 3/4, 2022

- This article compliments of the folks at [SKY & TELESCOPE](#)

NORMALLY, MOONLESS CONDITIONS for any meteor shower would be cause to celebrate, but the annual Quadrantids are fussy. While up to 120 meteors per hour *could* be visible under ideal conditions, the shower's peak lasts only about 4 hours. If you miss that brief window, the rate plummets to about 25 per hour — though that's still a bit better than a typical Lyrid or Orionid display.

This year the Quads are expected to peak around 20:40 UT (3:40 p.m. Eastern Time) on January 3rd, which favors observers in Asia and at eastern European longitudes. North American skywatchers will still see a shower, but one with the volume turned down. Because of the timing of the peak, it's likely the mornings of the 3rd and 4th will both offer good viewing. Watch between 3 a.m. and dawn when the radiant stands highest in the northeastern sky. Moonlight will not interfere with the observing this year.



Astrophotographer Petr Horálek captured this composite photo of the 2020 Quadrantid meteor shower above a snowy Slovakian landscape. The peak of this year's display favors observers (and photographers) in Eastern Europe and Asia.

