

# Close Encounter of Jupiter and Venus

- an April 2022 Sky Event from the [Astronomy Club of Asheville](#)



During late April, the planet Jupiter is ascending in the dawn skies while the planet Venus is descending. With the zodiac constellation Pisces in the background, the two planets, from our 2-dimensional view, will appear to be on a collision course along the ecliptic.

You will find these two bright planets closest on the morning of April 30<sup>th</sup>, when they will appear less than  $\frac{1}{2}^\circ$  apart! Because Venus is noticeable brighter (outshining much larger and more distant Jupiter by a factor of six!), you will be able to distinguish them without difficulty.

Using a telescope with a low power eyepiece, you should easily be able to observe both planets in the same field of view on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Look for Venus to display a 67% illuminated gibbous phase, and catch Jupiter and 3 of its 4 Galilean moons – Europa is not visible at the time, as it is orbiting behind Jupiter from our Earthly point of view.

Of course, observing this scene with your unaided eyes is also a treat. Find the planets Saturn, Mars, and Neptune along the ecliptic in the same dawn sky view. Although Neptune is shown on the chart above, you will need a telescope to spot its pale blue disk. \*\*\*