

The Moon Joins Venus & Jupiter

A very slender, waxing crescent Moon glides along the ecliptic, past Venus and Jupiter at dusk on **February 21-23**. On these nights, the brilliant planets Venus and Jupiter are observed with the zodiac constellation Pisces, the Fishes, in the background.

While Venus is now ascending in the evening sky each night, Jupiter is descending toward the horizon. The two planets will trade positions in their celestial dance on the nights of Feb. 28th to Mar. 2nd. They will appear closest on the evening of Mar. 1st, when they will be separated by a full moon diameter – about 31 arc minutes.

Venus reaches its *greatest elongation east* of the Sun (about 45°) on June 4th, while Jupiter reaches *conjunction* with the Sun on April 11th.

