

[Astronomy Club of Asheville](#)

April 2023 Sky Events

On the nights of **April 10-12**, the planet Venus passes by the Pleiades open star cluster. This action takes place in the zodiac constellation Taurus, the Bull. The Pleiades star cluster, also known as the “Seven Sisters”, is some 440 light years behind Venus. Use binoculars to enhance your view of this wonderful juxtaposition.

Among the solar system planets, cloud-covered Venus has the highest reflectivity of the Sun’s light (something astronomers call “albedo”). That, along with its closeness to Earth, gives Venus the claim as the brightest planet visible to us. When it is positioned in our skies after sunset, it is frequently called our “evening star”.

High above Venus on these nights, you should easily spot bright orange Mars in the constellation Gemini. With a clear view low to the western horizon and a pair of binoculars, elusive and fainter Mercury should also reveal itself.

Illustration courtesy of [SKY & TELESCOPE](#)

Venus Joins the Pleiades in the Constellation Taurus

