

3 Planets and the Moon Gather

At dusk on the evenings of **July 18-20**, the three rocky and closest planets to Earth gather with a waxing crescent Moon in the constellation Leo and along the border with Cancer.

While the planet Mercury and the Moon are climbing in our evening skies, Venus, Mars, and the stars of the constellation Leo are descending toward the western horizon on these nights. By the end of July, Venus will leave our evening skies, while Mercury will reach its highest altitude for its current evening visit (about 14°), before descending quickly toward the horizon in August. Mars will also leave our evening skies in August.

We will then be without any evening planetary visitors until September, when Saturn leads the arrival of the 4 outer gas giant planets, that will rise in the east this fall.***

