

# Elusive Mercury at Its Highest Altitude in the Sky

Here's your chance to catch the speedy and elusive planet Mercury in our early evening skies! Because the innermost planet Mercury never ventures far from the Sun in our sky, it is only observed very near to sunrise or sunset. Most folks have never wittingly seen Mercury.

**On the nights on and around July 31, 2023**, Mercury will attain its highest altitude in our evening sky for this current apparition (about  $14^\circ$ ). So, go out about 30 minutes after sunset and look for it below the planet Mars in the constellation Leo. Find an unobstructed view low to the west and use binoculars to help you locate it. Mercury shines at a rather bright magnitude +0.1 on these nights, but it may not appear particularly brilliant in the twilight.\*\*\*

