

Venus Reaches its Greatest Evening Brilliance

Venus' current sojourn in our evening skies began in late December 2022, and it has been brightening ever since. On **July 9th**, our "evening star" will reach its greatest brilliance for this visit (magnitude -4.5) – about twice as bright as it appeared in December.

This brightening is almost entirely due to Venus' approach to Earth, as it came from behind the Sun in early December and then orbited our way. Venus is now heading toward ***inferior conjunction*** with the Sun (passing between the Earth and the Sun) on August 13th. Shortly after that date, Venus reappears low in the east as our blazing "morning star". Find out more about Venus' brightness variations and its moon-like phases at [this link](#).

Joining Venus, in the constellation Leo on these nights, is the planet Mars and the bright star Regulus.***

