

November 2023 Sky Events

Article courtesy of [SKY & TELESCOPE](#)

THIS IS AN IDEAL YEAR for three minor meteor showers that rarely make the hit parade — the **Northern and Southern Taurids** and the **Leonids**. While the Leonids are famous for storms that occur approximately every 33 years, off-years receive little attention outside of meteor observing circles. However, conditions couldn't be better for this trio of minor showers, with little-to-no interference from the Moon around the dates of their predicted maxima. The Southern and Northern Taurids peak on the nights of November 5–6 and November 12–13, respectively. Both displays have broad maxima, making the entire first half of the month suitable for viewing. The Taurid streams are associated with Comet 2P/Encke and radiate from a 20°-by-10° region south of the Pleiades star cluster in Taurus. Rates are minuscule at a mere 5–10 meteors per hour for the Northern Taurids and 5 per hour for its partner.

The Leonids peak on the night of November 17–18, when you can expect to see around 15 meteors per hour from a dark-sky location. The radiant lies in the Sickle asterism in Leo, which is well placed from 2 a.m. until dawn, local time. You can't mistake a Leonid. Not only will its direction of travel point back to the Sickle, but the display produces some of the fastest meteors from a major shower. If you stowed away that reclining chair at the end of summer, it's time to dig it out again for some meteor watching.***

For more information about meteors and meteor showers, [follow this link](#).

