

The Moon Visits 3 Planets in the Dawn Sky

During the early morning hours of **August 19-21**, the waning crescent Moon will pass by the planets Jupiter, Venus, and Mercury in the eastern sky. And, if you look to the southwest into the constellation Pisces, you should also be able to spot the planet Saturn.

This is a wonderful spectacle that is worth the early rise from the comfort of your bed to observe.

As the Moon proceeds eastward along the “ecliptic” (the path across the sky that the Sun, Moon, and planets appear to follow), it often overtakes the more distant planets of our solar system, as they travel the same path. The Moon moves eastward, about 13° along the ecliptic, from one night to the next, or about $\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ per hour. Try following its movement across the sky during these summer nights.

