

July 2015 Skies

Date	Event
Wednesday, July 1st	Hoku (Full Moon) at 4:19pm HST Conjunction of Jupiter and Venus
Wednesday, July 8th	Kaloakukahi (Third Quarter Moon) at 10:24 am HST
Wednesday, July 15	Muku (New Moon) at 3:24 pm HST
Thursday, July 23rd	Olekukahi (First Quarter Moon) at 6:04pm HST
Friday, July 24th	Lahaina Noon at 12:26 pm
July 28th - 29th	Peak of Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower
Friday, July 31st	Hoku (Full Moon) at 12:42 am HST

On July 1st the sun will rise at 5:45 am and will set at 7:03 pm, yielding 13 hours 18 minutes and 4 seconds of daylight. On July 31st the sun will rise at 5:56 am and set at 6:57 pm, yielding 13 hours 1 minute and 25 seconds. Since the summer solstice was June 21st, we will be slowly losing daylight until the winter solstice in December. By the end of July there will be 16 minutes and 39 seconds less daylight.

July 2015 Highlights

As the month opens we will continue to observe the dance of Jupiter and Venus in the west. These planets are going through a conjunction. This is when, from our perspective, two planets pass close together in the sky. Since Venus and Jupiter are the two brightest planets in our sky, they will be very easy to spot as they prepare to set together in the west. The conjunction of the planets is also occurring on the night of a full moon. This will allow you to see the three brightest objects (the Moon, Venus and Jupiter) in the night sky.

With the summer solstice (June 21st) now past, our sun has already hit its northern-most point in our sky. As the year goes on, the sun will start rising and setting further south in our sky. Since Hawai'i is located in the tropics, we get a chance to observe a special event, Lahaina Noon. Lahaina Noon is when the sun is directly over head (at the zenith) during midday. It can only be observed in the tropics (between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn). The second Lahaina Noon of 2015 will be on July 24th and the sun will be at the top of the sky at 12:26 pm in Hilo. At this time if you placed a soda can outside in the sun, it would cast no shadow. This is also the time that the skylight in the 'Imiloa Atrium will perfectly illuminate our beautiful mosaic, the Voyage of the Navigator.

In late July one might notice an increase in shooting stars as we will be observing the Delta Aquarid meteor shower. This shower is much fainter and could be considered the prelude to the famous Perseid meteor shower, which will be peaking mid-August. The best time to view the Delta Aquarid meteor shower would be the evening of July 28-29th between midnight and sunrise.

Finally, in July we will see a Blue Moon, or a second Full Moon, on the last night of the month.



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July Sky Chart

