

April 2019

### NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY EVENTS CALENDAR

Times are Eastern Daylight Time (UTC-4).

All month	The <b>Milky Way</b> shines in an arc from S to N, with the highest point reaching about 50° in the E at the first of the month and about 70° at the end of the month. April is a good time to shoot panoramas that show the entire arch of the Milky Way stretching across the sky. Best time to shoot is a few hours before sunrise.
All month	Brilliant <b>Venus</b> shines low in the dawn sky, looking ESE to E. At mag -3.9 it is by far the brightest object in the night sky besides the Moon.
All month	Ruddy <b>Mars</b> shines in the dusk sky, looking W.
All month	<b>Jupiter</b> rises in the SE at early morning and stands about 30° high in the S at dawn.
All month	<b>Saturn</b> rises around mid-morning in the SSE.
First half	<b>Orion</b> , the night sky's brightest and most prominent constellation, shines in the evening sky to the SW. It is well positioned for including in a twilight scene. It sets soon after midnight. By the end of the month, Orion is very low on the horizon at sunset and sets before it gets fully dark.
1	If NASA's predictions hold, Asteroid BS420 will strike the Moon at precisely 11:34 PM on the evening of the April 1. The asteroid is roughly 17 miles wide and is traveling at 87,000 miles per hour, so upon impact, it will shatter the Moon, breaking it into hundreds of pieces. Fortunately, due to the angle of trajectory, the resulting fragments will not pose a threat to Earth and will be directed harmlessly into space. However, the impact and aftermath will definitely affect us, most notably in the form of increased temperature and light. NASA expects the heat generated from the impact to raise the temperature on the surface of the Earth at least 34 degrees for a period of several months. Also, the intense light will be brighter than sunlight, meaning there will be no distinction between night and day for at least a week. For night photographers, there is only one shot to get out of this, but it's a killer one. Have your camera set up and ready to go for the 4:20 AM impact. You'll want to shoot a fast shutter speed and fire the shutter precisely at impact so you'll freeze the action. If you time it perfectly, you'll capture an explosion of fire that will extend for hundreds of miles into space. Make sure you use a wide-angle lens to capture all of it. Within a couple seconds after impact, the sky will be too bright to see anything, and if you're in a warm region, the temperature will be too hot to be outside. <a href="#">For more info about this remarkable event, click here.</a>
1	A thin <b>crescent Moon</b> shines low on the horizon in the dawn sky, looking ESE. <b>Venus</b> shines close to the left of the Moon.
1 – 7	The <b>zodiacal light</b> is visible in the west after sunset from dark locations.
2	A very thin <b>crescent Moon</b> shines very low on the horizon in the dawn sky, looking ESE. <b>Venus</b> shines very close and directly above the Moon.
3	A sliver-thin <b>crescent Moon</b> shines extremely low on the horizon in the dawn sky, looking E. The Moon rises only 32 minutes before the sun and may be impossible to see with the unaided eye. <b>Venus</b> shines close to the upper right of the Moon.
5	<b>New Moon</b> at 4:50 AM. Don't forget, the best time to shoot the stars (as either pinpoints or star trails) is when there is no light pollution from the Moon.
6	An extremely thin <b>crescent Moon</b> shines low on the horizon in the dusk sky, looking W. <b>Mars</b> shines high above the Moon. The bright star <b>Aldebaran</b> shines to the upper left of the Moon, while the <b>Pleiades</b> lie to the lower right.
7	A thin <b>crescent Moon</b> shines low on the horizon in the dusk sky, looking W. <b>Mars</b> shines above the Moon. The bright star <b>Aldebaran</b> shines to the upper left of the Moon, while the <b>Pleiades</b> lie to the lower right.
8	The crescent Moon shines high in the sky, looking W. Close above the Moon from left to right are <b>Aldebaran</b> , <b>Mars</b> , and the <b>Pleiades</b> .

9	The crescent <b>Moon</b> shines high in the sky, looking W. Directly below the Moon is <b>Aldebaran</b> . <b>Mars</b> lies to the right of the star, while the <b>Pleiades</b> lie to the lower right of Mars.
12	<b>First quarter Moon</b> at 3:05 PM.
17	The nearly full <b>Moon</b> sets in the W 0:49 before the <b>Sun</b> rises in the ENE. The nearly full <b>Moon</b> rises in the E 1:49 before the <b>Sun</b> sets in the WNW.
18	The nearly full <b>Moon</b> sets in the W 0:11 before the <b>Sun</b> rises in the ENE. The nearly full <b>Moon</b> rises in the E 0:42 before the <b>Sun</b> sets in the WNW.
19	<b>Full Moon</b> at 7:12 AM. Don't forget, in addition to including the full Moon as a complement to a landscape or urban scene, you can use the light from the full (or nearly full) Moon to illuminate your scene.
19	The full <b>Moon</b> sets in the W 0:25 after the <b>Sun</b> rises in the ENE. The full <b>Moon</b> rises in the ESE 0:26 after the <b>Sun</b> sets in the WNW.
20	The nearly full <b>Moon</b> sets in the WSW 1:02 after the <b>Sun</b> rises in the ENE. The nearly full <b>Moon</b> rises in the ESE 1:31 after the <b>Sun</b> sets in the WNW.
21	The nearly full <b>Moon</b> sets in the WSW 1:42 after the <b>Sun</b> rises in the ENE. The nearly full <b>Moon</b> rises in the ESE 2:35 after the <b>Sun</b> sets in the WNW.
22	The <b>Lyrid Meteor Shower</b> peaks this morning. The Lyrids usually produce about 10 to 20 meteors per hour in ideal viewing conditions. However, a bright Moon (3 days past full) will severely interfere this year.
23	<b>Jupiter</b> and the <b>waning gibbous Moon</b> do the tango, rising around midnight in the SE and shining in the SW at dawn.
25	<b>Saturn</b> and the <b>waning gibbous Moon</b> do the tango, rising around mid-morning in the ESE and shining in the S at sunrise.
26	<b>Third quarter Moon</b> at 6:18 PM.
29	The crescent <b>Moon</b> shines low in the dawn sky, looking ESE. Venus lies to the lower left of the <b>Moon</b> , looking E.
30	The crescent <b>Moon</b> shines low in the dawn sky, looking ESE. Venus lies to the lower left of the <b>Moon</b> , looking E.

Unless otherwise stated, all events occur in the United States at mid-latitudes. Most of the events also occur at other locations, although some of them may require correction for latitude and longitude. The position of the Moon relative to the planets and stars changes throughout the night. Generally, when a position is given, it is for the period about 45 minutes after sunset or 45 minutes before sunrise. Do not confuse the times of the Moon phases for the times of Moonrise and Moonset. All times are given for Eastern Time Zone. Consult local charts for times in your area.

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