

THE OBSERVATORY

September 2024 Equinox Edition



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This year the fall/spring equinox and the eclipse season are mingled, with the lunar eclipse on September 18, the equinox on September 22, and the solar eclipse on October 2. The weather is often unstable as the Sun and Moon pass near Rahu and Ketu. So too is the weather at the September equinox, when the full light of the sun shifts south of the equator.

The major planetary event of the season will be the movement of Mars, as its apparent forward motion slows and stops on December 7. Mars will appear to move backward (retrograde) compared to the stars until February 24, 2025. The entire cycle will continue into the first half of 2025, with Mars dipping back into Gemini for a while. As a result, Mars spends many months in Gemini and Cancer between August 28, 2024 and June 7, 2025. Please refer to Alan Annand's article *Street Fighting Mars?* for an additional perspective.

The march of the seasons and the lunar cycles continues as always. Please take time to notice how the change of seasons is a total sensory and spiritual experience – a change of the quality of light, of sound, smell, taste and touch.

There are a number of days and weeks while the Sun, Mercury and Venus pass through Virgo and Libra on which there are auspicious days for social, cultural, and spiritual undertakings. We must not fall into doom and gloom over difficult things going on in the world this season. Rather, let us continue our efforts to shed light and do our part "for the welfare of the world," as stated in the first chapter of Parashara.

Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto are all in retrograde motion for a portion or all of the season and remain in their same zodiac signs. Venus leaps ahead in direct motion. Mercury is rapid in direct motion but goes into retrograde for a few weeks in November-December. There are a number of interesting aspects between the rapidly moving planets and the slower outer planets, as well as Rahu and Ketu. Jupiter in Taurus and Saturn in Aquarius remain near the same degrees in fixed signs, a theme that underlies the rhythm of this year.



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Times when listed are for Eastern Daylight (-4:00h) or Eastern Standard Time (-5:00), calculated for New York City, USA.

Daylight Time ends November 3 in USA and Canada

The exact time and date of these events will vary around the world.

Sidereal zodiac, Lahiri Ayanamsa.

September 2024

September 18, Full Moon and Partial Lunar Eclipse, 10:34 pm at 01deg07 Pisces will be visible over Europe, western Asia, Africa, North America, South America, the Eastern Pacific and Polynesia, the Atlantic Ocean, the western part of the Indian Ocean, Greenland and Iceland.

September 16-24, Sun in Virgo, Mercury in Leo are in Parivartana yoga.

September 18, Saturn at 21deg Aquarius makes 1/7 aspect to Mercury at 21deg Leo

September 19, Venus enters Libra

September 19, October 13, Venus in its own sign is also the sign ruler for Jupiter in Taurus

September 19 – October 13, Venus in Libra

September 21, Jupiter at 26deg35 Taurus makes 1/5 aspect to Mercury at 26deg35 Virgo

September 21, Mercury leaves Purva Phalguni nakshatra and enters Uttara Phalguni

September 22, Autumn Equinox Northern Hemisphere, Spring Equinox Southern Hemisphere at 8:44 am EDT

September 23, Mercury enters Virgo in its own/exalted sign

September 23, Venus leaves Citra nakshatra and enters Swati

September 26, Sun enters leaves Uttara Phalguni nakshatra and enters Hasta

September 29, Mercury enters Hasta nakshatra

September 30, Mars leaves Ardra nakshatra and enters Punarvasu

September 29-30, Sun, Mercury and Ketu conjoin over a 24-hour period at 12deg12 Virgo

October 2024

October 2, New Moon and Annular Solar Eclipse, 2:49 pm at 15deg28 Virgo, visible from Polynesia, parts of Western Mexico, the Galapagos Islands, the southern half of South America, parts of Antarctica and South Georgia

October 3, Saturn enters Shatabhishak nakshatra

October 5, Mercury enters Citra nakshatra

October 5, Mercury enters Vishakha nakshatra

October 6, Mars in Gemini makes exact 1/4 aspect to Mercury in Virgo

October 10, Mercury enters Libra, friend's sign, and conjoins Venus in Libra

October 11, Sun enters Citra nakshatra

October 11, Pluto stationary direct at 05deg26 Capricorn

October 13, Venus enters Scorpio

October 14, Venus at 02deg21 Scorpio makes 1/7 aspect to Uranus at 02deg21 Taurus

October 14, Mars in Gemini makes exact 1/4 aspect to Sun in Virgo

October 15, Mercury enters Swati nakshatra

October 16, Venus enters Anuradha nakshatra

October 17, Sun enters Libra, its debilitation sign

October 17, Full Moon at 7:26 am at 00deg06 Aries

October 20, Mars enters Cancer, its debilitation sign

October 23, Mercury enters Vishakha nakshatra

October 24, Rahu at 12deg34 Pisces makes a 1/5 trine aspect to Venus at 12deg24 Scorpio

October 24, Sun enters Swati nakshatra

October 26, Venus enters Jyeshtha nakshatra

October 26, Jupiter enters Kritika nakshatra

October 28, Saturn at 18deg47 Aquarius makes exact 1/10 aspect to Venus at 18deg47 Scorpio

October 28, Mars enters Pushya Nakshatra

October 29, Mercury enters Scorpio

October 30, Mercury at 01deg44 Scorpio makes 1/7 aspect to Uranus at 01deg44 Taurus

October 31, Neptune enters Purva Bhadrapada nakshatra

November 2024

November 1, New Moon at 8:47 am at 15deg00 Libra

November 2, Mercury enters Anuradha nakshatra

November 3, Daylight Savings Time ends in USA and Canada

November 3, Mars at 05deg33 Cancer makes 1/7 aspect to Pluto at 05deg33 Capricorn

November 6, Venus enters Sagittarius and Mula nakshatra

November 6, Sun enters Vishakha nakshatra

November 7, Rahu at 11deg56 Pisces makes 1/9 aspect to Mercury at 11deg56 Scorpio

November 11, Mercury enters Jyeshtha nakshatra

November 12, Saturn at 18deg30 Aquarius makes 1/10 aspect to Mercury at 18deg56 Scorpio

November 14, Full Moon at 7:26 am at 29deg31 Aries

November 15, Saturn stationary direct at 18deg29 Aquarius

November 16, Sun enters Scorpio

November 18, Mercury at 24deg38 Scorpio makes 1/7 aspect to Jupiter at 24deg38 Taurus

November 18, Venus enters Purva Ashadha nakshatra

November 24, Rahu at 10deg57 Pisces makes 1/5 aspect to Mars at 10deg57 Cancer

November 25, Mercury stationary retrograde at 12deg15 Scorpio

November 26, Rahu at 10deg48 Pisces makes 1/9 aspect to Sun at 10deg48 Scorpio

November 30, Venus enters Uttara Ashadha nakshatra

December 2024

December 1, New Moon at 1:21 am at 15deg10 Scorpio

December 2, Sun enters Jyeshtha nakshatra

December 3, Venus enters Capricorn

December 3, Ketu leaves Hasta nakshatra and enters Uttara Phalguni nakshatra

December 4, Mercury at 22deg35 Scorpio makes 1/7 aspect to Jupiter at 22deg35 Taurus

December 5, Sun conjoins Mercury at approximately 20deg15 Scorpio

December 6, Mars stationary retrograde at 11deg58 Cancer

December 6, Saturn at 18deg51Aquarius makes 1/10 aspect to Mercury at 18deg51 Scorpio

December 7, Neptune stationary direct at 02deg56 Pisces

December 7, Sun at 22deg10 Scorpio makes 1/7 aspect to Jupiter at 22deg10 Taurus

December 8, Mercury enters Anuradha nakshatra

December 11, Venus enters Shravana nakshatra

December 12, Venus at 11:45 Capricorn makes 1/7 aspect to Mars at 11:45 Cancer

December 14, Uranus moves retrograde from Taurus into Aries

December 15, Full Moon at 4:02 am at 29deg17 Taurus

December 15, Sun enters Sagittarius

December 15, Mercury stations direct at 12deg15 Scorpio

December 21, Winter Solstice Northern Hemisphere, Summer Solstice Southern Hemisphere at 4:21 am EST.

December 22, Venus enters Dhanistha nakshatra

December 24-27, Mercury at 19 degrees Scorpio is in 1/7 aspect to Jupiter in Taurus and also receives 1/10 aspect from Saturn in Aquarius. Jupiter and Saturn are in 90-degree aspect by degree in same time period

December 28, Sun enters Purva Ashadha

December 30, New Moon at 5:27 pm at 15deg17 Sagittarius