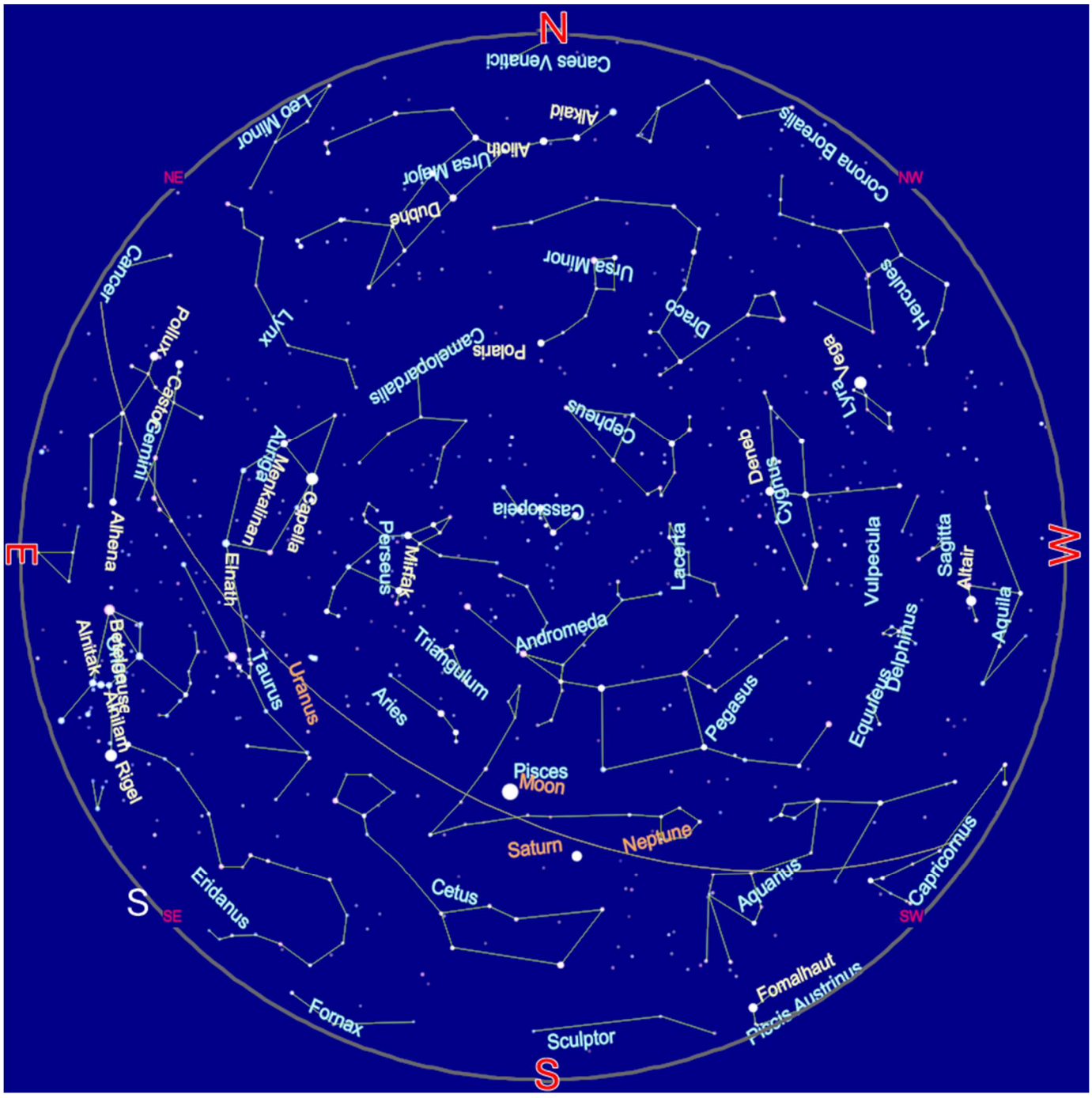
The Night Sky in November 2026

Monthly Guide
compiled by Doug Bickley

PERTON LIBRARY ASTRONOMY GROUP



The chart is based on location 52.6° N, 2.2° W (Perton, Wolverhampton) @ 21:00 on 15/11/2026.
The orange line is the ecliptic.
We are looking SOUTH (as shown at the bottom of the chart) at the constellations Orion, Pisces, Pegasus and Delphinius with the constellations Perseus, Lacerta, Vulpecula and Sagitta overhead.

***TO USE THE CHART - hold it so that the direction you are facing is at the bottom** – the lower part of the chart shows the sky ahead of you and the centre of the chart shows the sky directly over your head.*

Events summary to look out for this month:

1	Moon rises near M44 Beehive Cluster
3	Moon, Mars and Jupiter close together when rising
7	Crescent Moon and Venus in conjunction (morning)
9	New Moon
16	Mars and Jupiter in conjunction (morning)
17	Leonid meteor shower peak
19	Neptune, Saturn and Moon close by
19	Perton Library Astronomy Group meeting 7pm
20	Moon and Saturn in conjunction
24	Full Moon - Supermoon
25	Uranus at opposition
28	Venus at greatest brightness
28	Moon moves through M44 Beehive Cluster

The phenomena of the month : November 2026

Times are given in UT for PERTON (2° 11' 53" W, 52° 35' 26" N, zone Z).

	Date	Hour	Description of the phenomenon
	yyyy mm dd	hh:mm	
1	2026 11 01	20:28	LAST QUARTER OF THE MOON
2	2026 11 04	14:24	INFERIOR CONJUNCTION of Mercury with the Sun (geoc. dist. center to center = 0.4°)
3	2026 11 05	00:00	Meteor shower : S. Taurids (7 meteors/hour at zenith; duration = 71.0 days)
4	2026 11 05	23:59	Close encounter between Venus and Spica (topocentric dist. center to center = 1.6°)
5	2026 11 07	09:16	Close encounter between the Moon and Venus (topocentric dist. center to center = 1.7°)
6	2026 11 09	07:02	NEW MOON
7	2026 11 12	00:00	Meteor shower : N. Taurids (5 meteors/hour at zenith; duration = 51.0 days)
8	2026 11 13	17:50	Moon at apogee (geocentric dist. = 405619 km)
9	2026 11 16	05:46	Close encounter between Mars and Jupiter (topocentric dist. center to center = 1.2°)
10	2026 11 17	11:48	FIRST QUARTER OF THE MOON
11	2026 11 17	23:46	Meteor shower : Leonids (15 meteors/hour at zenith; duration = 24.0 days)
12	2026 11 20	18:47	Close encounter between the Moon and Saturn (topocentric dist. center to center = 5.4°)
13	2026 11 21	00:00	GREATEST WESTERN ELONGATION of Mercury (19.5°)
14	2026 11 22	00:00	Meteor shower : Alpha Monocerotids (duration = 10.0 days)
15	2026 11 22	05:46	Close encounter between Venus and Spica (topocentric dist. center to center = 2.1°)
16	2026 11 24	14:53	FULL MOON
17	2026 11 24	16:10	Close encounter between the Moon and Uranus (topocentric dist. center to center = 4.2°)
18	2026 11 25	20:58	Moon at perigee (geocentric dist. = 359347 km)
19	2026 11 26	11:46	Close encounter between Mars and Regulus (topocentric dist. center to center = 1.7°)
20	2026 11 27	23:42	Close encounter between the Moon and Pollux (topocentric dist. center to center = 4.6°)
21	2026 11 28	00:00	VENUS at maximum brightness (magn. -4.69)
22	2026 11 28	22:36	Close encounter between the Moon and M 44 (topocentric dist. center to center = 0.6°)

THE MOON

Lunar Phases this month



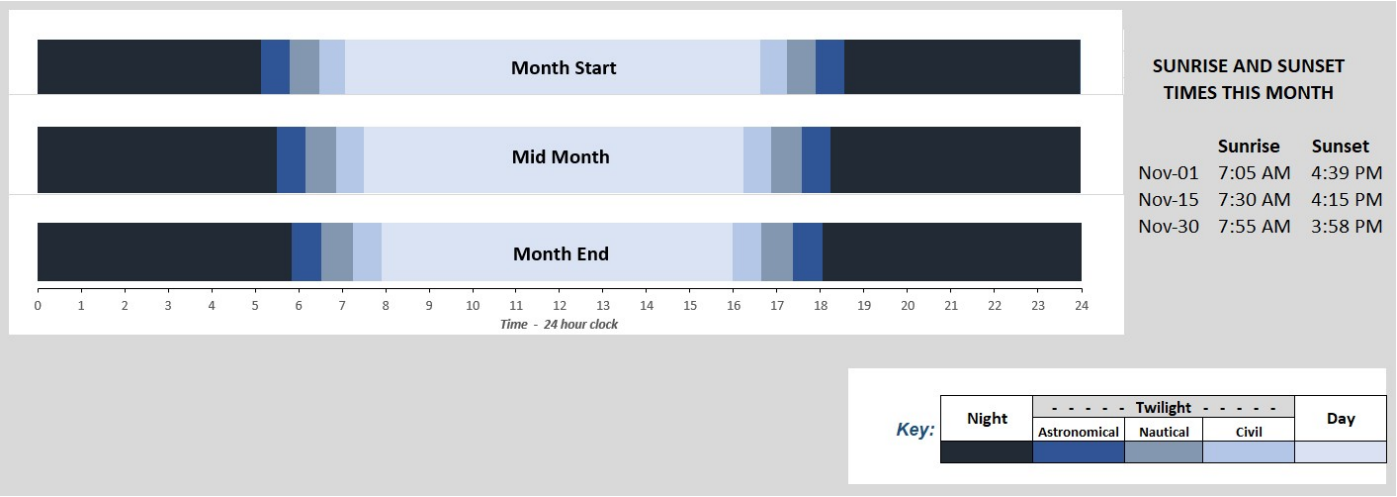
The Full Moon in November is called the Full Beaver Moon.
It will occur on Tuesday 24 November at 14:53 UTC and will be a Supermoon. At this time at its closest point to the Earth the full Moon can appear up to 14 percent bigger and 30 percent brighter than the faintest Moon of the year (which occurs when it's farthest from Earth in its orbit). A full Supermoon is a bit brighter than other moons throughout the year. Sometimes it can be hard to detect a Supermoon visually, but it does have an effect on Earth. Because the Moon is in its closest approach to Earth, it can cause higher tides than usual. Supermoons are usually consecutive and you will see one also in December and January.

As usual I'm including other names here for the November Full Moon.
The most common name, and this comes from the Northern American tribal name – 'Beaver Moon' - comes from the increased activity of these animals building dams and taking shelter in their lodges, having laid up sufficient food stores for the long winter ahead.

Other names relating to animals preparing for winter, are the 'Digging (or Scratching) Moon' and the 'Deer Rutting Moon'. Weather based names are the 'Frost Moon' and the 'Freezing Moon' - for good reason, as winter is right around the corner! And more locally 'Moon Before Yule' is an old Anglo-Saxon and historic European name for the final full moon occurring just before the midwinter Yule season. Celtic names are 'Mourning Moon' and 'Darkest Depths Moon'.

THE SUN

Graphical format showing sun rising, setting and twilight linked to an online data source (time-ok.com) to show twilight zones more clearly. Location is set at Wolverhampton UK.



Day are shorter and nights longer but now we have gone back to GMT you may find some decent observing earlier in the evening and before the weather gets colder in December.

We are moving steadily toward the winter solstice on 21 December 21 2026, at 20:50 GMT in Wolverhampton. Each year, there is one solstice in December and one in June. The December solstice marks the shortest day in the northern hemisphere.

METEOR SHOWERS

Leonids
The Leonids are usually one of the more prolific annual meteor showers, with fast, bright meteors. It will be active from 6-30 November and peak overnight on 17 November.
The meteor shower is associated with the Comet 55P/Tempel-Tuttle and the radiant (the point where the meteors seem to stream from) is at the head or 'sickle' of the constellation Leo the Lion, hence the name.

Taurids
The Taurids are a slow and long-lasting meteor shower. The Northern Taurids will be active between 20 October and 10 December, peaking on 12 November when the Moon is a waxing crescent. However the Moon will set quite early so the meteors are best observed later in the evening. The comet stream is very spread out and dispersed, which is why it takes the Earth a relatively long time to pass through.
Even at their peak, the Taurids are not particularly frequent. They areassociated with debris left behind by Comet Encke.

PLANETS THIS MONTH

Here's my usual summary table showing times for planetary rising and setting, with observation opportunities based on mid-month data. As always "good visibility" doesn't necessarily mean that views will be easy. Clocks have now been put back to GMT (the same as UT – universal time) and winter skies are almost with us.

	Planetrise/Planetset, Sun, 15 Nov 2026			
Planet	Rise	Set	Meridian	Comment
Mercury	Sun 05:42	Sun 15:49	Sun 10:45	Slightly difficult to see
Venus	Sun 04:44	Sun 15:02	Sun 09:53	Fairly good visibility
Mars	Sat 22:59	Sun 13:48	Sun 06:24	Average visibility
Jupiter	Sat 23:07	Sun 13:41	Sun 06:24	Fairly good visibility
Saturn	Sun 14:56	Mon 03:11	Sun 21:04	Perfect visibility
Uranus	Sun 16:34	Mon 08:39	Mon 00:36	Average visibility
Neptune	Sun 14:37	Mon 02:37	Sun 20:37	Difficult to see

Data from timeanddate.com

Mercury is in the SE in Libra shining at mag. -0.5 at an altitude of 11° and reaches inferior conjunction on 4 November. It should be reasonably visible from later in the month.

Venus is in the SE in Virgo, at an altitude of 12°, shining at mag. -4.3 and brightening as the month goes on. On 7 November a 4%-lit Moon will be close by. You should be able to see the phases during the month

Jupiter is still in Leo in the S at an altitude of 50° shining at mag. -2.1 and will be in the same part of the sky as Mars all month. On 3 November it will be close to a 34%-lit waning crescent Moon, and on 30 November a 60%-lit waning gibbous Moon. At month end Jupiter, Mars, Regulus and the Moon will all line up.

Mars is in the S in Leo at a maximum altitude of 50°, shining at mag. +1.3 with seeing still improving and will be mag. +0.5 by month end. It will be close to Jupiter for much of the month.

Saturn is still in the S in Cetus shining at mag. 0.5 with a maximum altitude of 38° well placed for evening observations. On 20 November an 82%-lit waxing gibbous Moon will be close by. The rings are slowly opening up, now tilted at about of 7.5° as they gradually open up toward a maximum inclination by 2032.

Uranus is still in the S in Taurus at a maximum altitude of 58° shining at mag. +5.6 and reaches opposition on 25 November. At 00:03 UT that day, the planet is due south and highest in the sky. You may see the greenish coloured disk but the planet is so far away from us that any more is a big ask.

Neptune is still in the S in Pisces at a maximum altitude of 36° shining at its usual brightness of mag. +7.8 throughout the month.

International Space Station (ISS)

Forecast times for visible passes this month

You can use these apps to check for ISS passes:



Android: *ISS Detector Satellite Tracker*



IOS: *ISS Spotter*

Date	Mag	Transit time	Start			High point	End		
			Time	Alt.degs.	Az.		Time	Alt.degs.	Az.
01-Nov	-0.5	00:01	03:57	10°	SE	10°	03:57	10°	SE
01-Nov	-1.7	01:55	05:30	15°	SW	15°	05:32	10°	S
02-Nov	-1.1	00:28	04:45	12°	S	12°	04:45	10°	SSE
12-Nov	-1.3	00:41	18:20	10°	S	12°	18:21	12°	SSE
13-Nov	-1.1	00:44	19:08	10°	SW	15°	19:08	15°	SW
14-Nov	-2.3	02:26	18:20	10°	SSW	26°	18:23	26°	SSE
15-Nov	-1.9	03:54	17:33	10°	SSW	20°	17:37	15°	ESE
15-Nov	-1.4	01:19	19:08	10°	WSW	21°	19:10	21°	WSW
16-Nov	-3.2	03:07	18:21	10°	SW	45°	18:24	45°	SSE
17-Nov	-2.8	04:49	17:33	10°	SW	35°	17:38	20°	ESE
17-Nov	-1.4	01:27	19:09	10°	W	24°	19:11	24°	WSW
18-Nov	-2.2	05:43	16:46	10°	SSW	26°	16:51	10°	E
18-Nov	-3.7	03:18	18:22	10°	WSW	67°	18:25	67°	S
19-Nov	-3.4	05:06	17:34	10°	WSW	56°	17:39	24°	E
19-Nov	-1.3	01:25	19:10	10°	W	23°	19:12	23°	W
20-Nov	-3.0	06:26	16:46	10°	SW	45°	16:52	10°	E
20-Nov	-3.8	03:16	18:22	10°	W	76°	18:26	76°	SSW
21-Nov	-3.7	05:07	17:35	10°	W	74°	17:40	25°	E
21-Nov	-1.2	01:20	19:11	10°	W	22°	19:13	22°	W
22-Nov	-3.5	06:40	16:47	10°	WSW	66°	16:53	10°	E
22-Nov	-3.6	03:14	18:23	10°	W	69°	18:27	69°	SSW
23-Nov	-3.7	05:10	17:35	10°	W	76°	17:40	25°	ESE
23-Nov	-1.1	01:19	19:12	10°	W	20°	19:13	20°	W
24-Nov	-3.6	06:42	16:47	10°	W	77°	16:54	10°	E
24-Nov	-3.1	03:18	18:24	10°	W	49°	18:27	49°	SSW
25-Nov	-3.4	05:24	17:36	10°	W	60°	17:41	21°	ESE
25-Nov	-0.9	01:17	19:13	10°	W	17°	19:14	17°	WSW
26-Nov	-3.5	06:41	16:48	10°	W	70°	16:55	10°	ESE
26-Nov	-2.2	03:38	18:25	10°	W	29°	18:29	27°	S
27-Nov	-2.5	06:01	17:37	10°	W	39°	17:43	12°	SE
27-Nov	-0.6	00:42	19:15	10°	WSW	11°	19:16	11°	SW
28-Nov	-2.9	06:31	16:49	10°	W	50°	16:55	10°	ESE
28-Nov	-1.0	04:06	18:26	10°	WSW	16°	18:30	11°	S
29-Nov	-1.3	05:21	17:38	10°	W	22°	17:43	10°	SSE
30-Nov	-1.7	05:58	16:49	10°	W	30°	16:55	10°	SE

I've listed all the forecast visible passes this month.
They are all in the wee hours so if you see a satellite pass in the early evening it won't be the ISS.
There are plenty of other satellites but not usually as bright as the ISS, which is as big as a football field and has a big area of solar panels and metal to reflect light.

Check the Heavens-Above website to see the passes that I haven't show and for the latest forecasts.
[source: https://www.heavens-above.com/]

PERTON LIBRARY ASTRONOMY GROUP



The group meets on the third Thursday of every month of the year at Perton Library from 7pm to 9pm. No subscription, no need to book, all free, just drop in at any time during the evening.
(Location WV6 7QU or on what3words ///saints.empty.stands)
The group is a relaxed and friendly gathering with the occasional talk.

We are particularly suited to beginners who very often bring their telescopes along for advice on how to set up, and we have experienced members who can help with this. If the skies are clear we do try to do some observing with library and member equipment.

WOLVERHAMPTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

The Wolvas annual subscription is currently a bargain at £15 per annum and you can sign up now our website www.wolvas.org.uk and pay your subscription, preferably by bank transfer.

We put together a yearly 16 lecture programme and the host location for our live talks remains the University of Wolverhampton in the city centre. Access and facilities are excellent - details are available on the Wolvas website. Lectures in person or online will only be available to paid-up members of the Society. Members will receive regular emails with invitations to the Zoom sessions and reminders of the in-person lectures.
Non-members may attend the talks live for £2 on the door.

We have some excellent talks lined up for the upcoming season, some of the slots are still being filled:

DATE	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
02-Nov-26	Alan Clitherow	Planatary Imaging
10-Nov-26	Steve Wootton	President's Lecture
07-Dec-26	Prof Jane Greaves	To be decided
11-Jan-27	Ian Mould	Stellar Evolution for Beginners
25-Jan-27	Dr MichelleThaller	To be decided
08-Feb-27	Roy Gunson	To be decided
22-Feb-27	Linda Manas	To be decided
08-Mar-27	TBA	To be decided
22-Mar-27	Martin Lewis	Imaging the Night Side of Venus
12-Apr-27	TBA	To be decided
10-May-27	Mary McKintyre	Augsburg Wunderzeichenbuch (The Book of Miracles)
14-Jun-27	TBA	To be decided

As well as our website we will be posting details of events on social media, so keep an eye on our Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/wolvasuk) and X *[Twitter]* (https://twitter.com/wolvasuk) pages for the latest news.