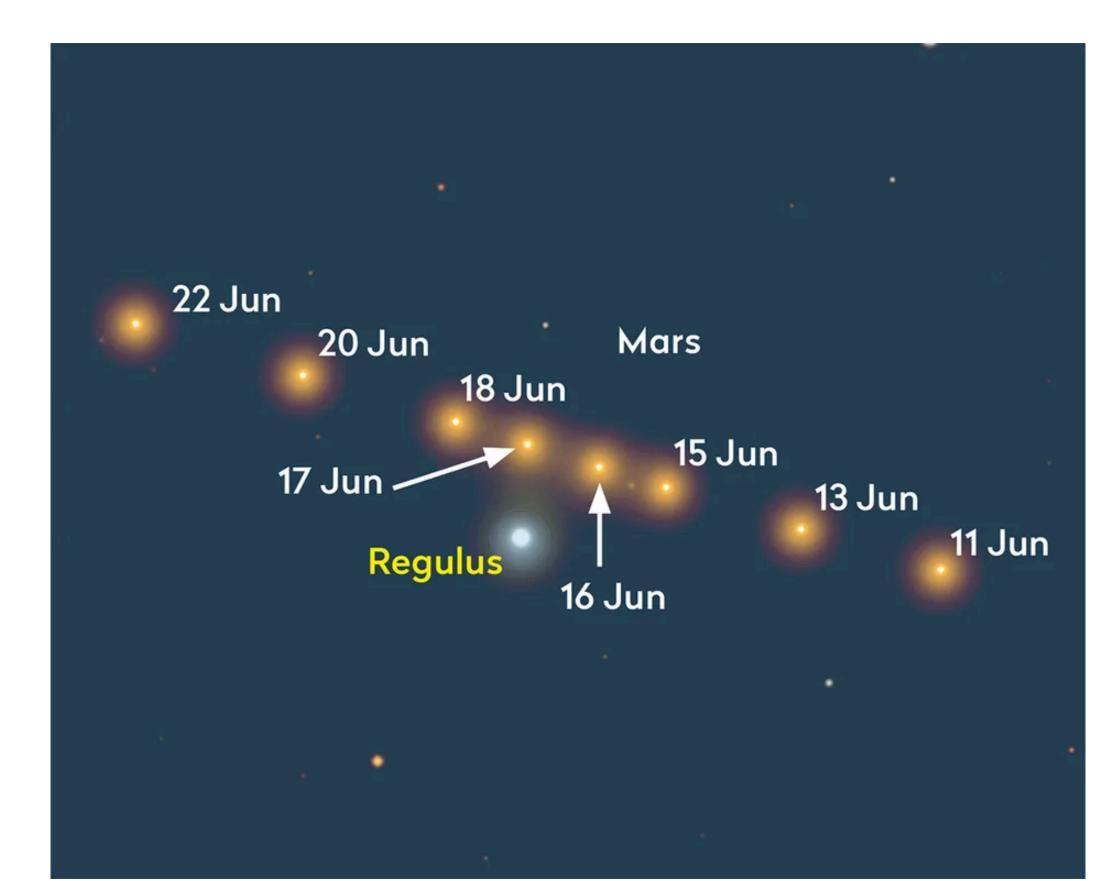
Search...

BBBSky at Night Magazine

Subscribe Reviews -Advice -Virtual Events Astrophotography Astronomy news Science

<u>Home</u> > <u>Astronomy News</u> > Catch Mars's Meeting With Bright Star Regulus In Leo This Weekend



Catch Mars's meeting with bright star Regulus in Leo this weekend

Save 30% on the shop price when you subscribe to BBC Sky at Night Magazine today!

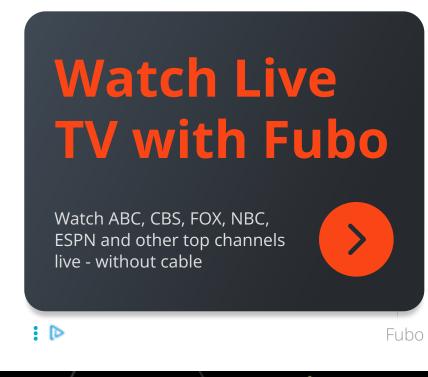
By <u>lain Todd</u> | <u>Pete Lawrence</u> Published: June 13, 2025 at 6:28 am

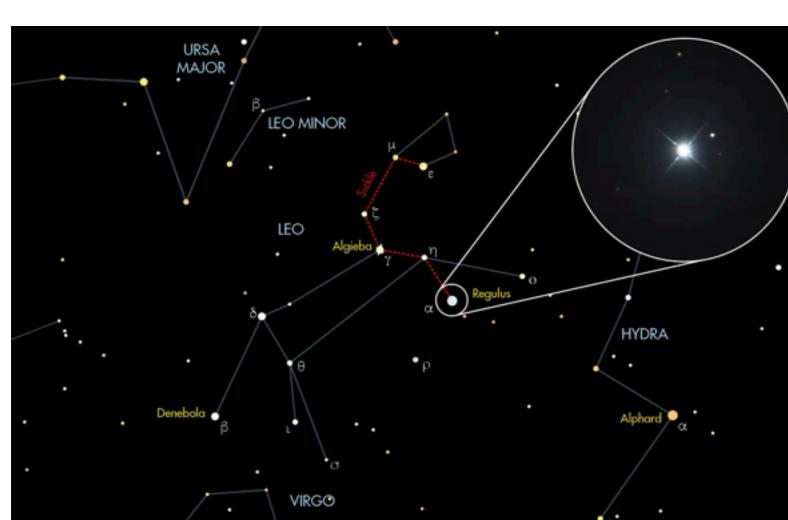
From 12 June onwards, if you catch Mars in the sky during the darkening evening twilight, you'll see the planet pass closer and closer to bright star <u>Regulus</u> each night.

Regulus is the brightest star in the <u>constellation Leo</u>, often known as the 'lion's heart'.

It's also at the bottom of the <u>Sickle star pattern</u>, which looks rather like a backwards question mark.

Regulus sits close to the ecliptic, the Sun's apparent path across the sky, which represents the projection of the Earth's orbital plane into space.





Credit: Pete Lawrence

The ecliptic and Regulus conjunctions

We need to go all the way back to the formation of the Solar System to explain the ecliptic.

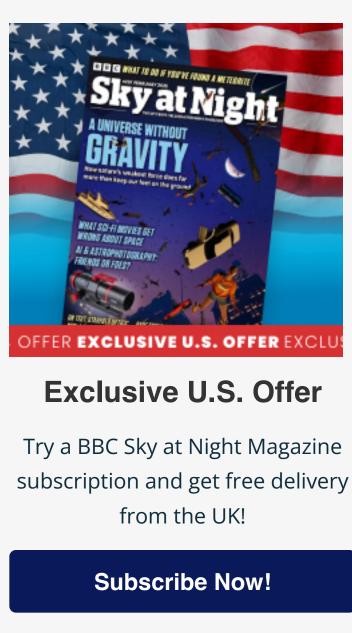
surrounding our newborn star.

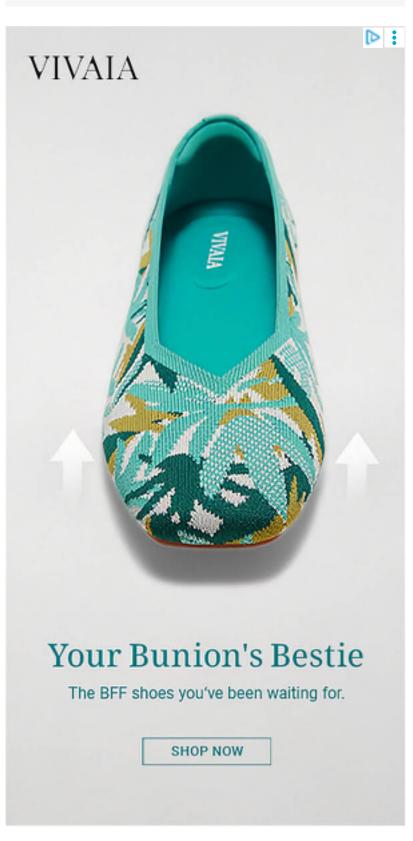
The Solar System planets all formed out of the same dusty disc

As a result, all the Solar System planets appear in Earth's sky on or around the same path that the Sun traces across our sky.

And because Regulus happens to be located in the same patch of sky as the ecliptic, it often appears close to planets in our night sky, in events known as conjunctions.







UK summer at 10pm: the ecliptic is low, at a shallow angle to the horizon Of course, these apparent meetings are a matter of perspective. The

eventually passing just north of it.

planets of our Solar System orbit the Sun, our host star, while Regulus is a distant star all of its own. This upcoming meeting of Mars and Regulus in our night sky is an

opportunity to observe this chance alignment. The Red Planet will get closer and closer to Regulus each night,

Magazine

Illustration showing the passage of Mars north of star Regulus, June 2025. Credit: BBC Sky at Night

Observing the Mars Regulus conjunction The Sky at Night's Pete Lawrence reveals key timings for the event:

The best time to see Mars and Regulus will be in the darkening evening twilight from 23:00 BST (22:00 UT) between 15 and 18 June, when both

objects are visible about 15° above the western horizon. At the time of their meeting, Mars will be shining at mag. +1.4, a

On the evening of **15 June**, the two objects are separated by 1.2°. On **16 June**, the gap closes to 52 arcminutes, dropping to 45

fraction dimmer than Regulus's mag. +1.3.

arcminutes on 17 June.

Close though this will appear, remember you could still fit 1.5 full Moons between them.

On the evening of **18 June**, the gap reopens, with Mars and Regulus now separated by 1°.

Finally, on the evening of **29 June**, a 22%-lit waxing crescent Moon invades the show.

7° from Regulus. The Moon will sit between the two planets, 2° to the west of Mars.

Mars will have moved significantly further east on this date, now sitting

See if you can find Mars and Regulus with the naked eye, then grab a pair of binoculars and get a closer look.

Remember to wait until the Sun has fully set before doing so, as catching a glimpse of the setting Sun through binoculars could damage your eyesight.

If you do happen to catch - or even photograph - this meeting of Mars and Regulus, be sure to share your images with us via contactus@skyatnightmagazine.com



love with the night sky when he

Jain Todd

Science journalist

caught his first glimpse of Orion, aged 10.

© Our Media 2025

Pete Lawrence is an experienced astronomer and astrophotographer, and a presenter on BBC's The Sky at Night.

<u>Pete Lawrence</u>

Astronomer and presenter

Want the latest astronomy news and weekly stargazing advice?

Sign up to receive our free newsletter! Email Address Sign me up! By entering your details, you are agreeing to BBC Sky at Night Magazine terms and conditions. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Subscribe

Manage preferences



