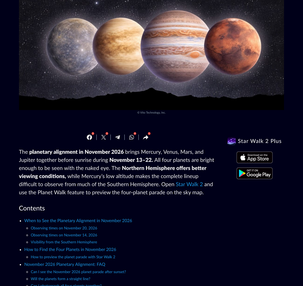
Planet Parade in November 2026: See 4 Planets Before Sunrise

Oct 23, 2026 | ⏱ ~7 min
Topics: Planets & Moons | Stargazing



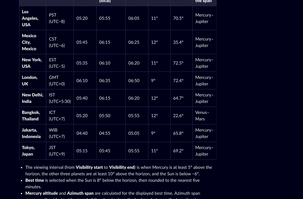
Star Walk 2 Plus
App Store
Google Play

The **planetary alignment in November 2026** brings Mercury, Venus, Mars, and Jupiter together before sunrise during **November 13–22**. All four planets are bright enough to be seen with the naked eye. The **Northern Hemisphere offers better viewing conditions**, while Mercury's low altitude makes the complete lineup difficult to observe from much of the Southern Hemisphere. Open Star Walk 2 and use the Planet Walk feature to preview the four-planet parade on the sky map.

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When to See the Planetary Alignment in November 2026



The four-planet alignment as seen from New York at the same stage of dawn on November 14 and 20, 2026. The planets shift slightly between the two views, while Mercury becomes brighter and rises higher above the horizon by November 20.

The lineup begins forming around November 8, but Mercury is very low at first. **Different mornings offer different observing advantages:**

- **For easier observation of Mercury:** try November 20–22, 2026. Mercury reaches its greatest elongation on November 20 (6.1°W), appearing about 19.4° from the Sun. Around this date, Mercury will be brighter and higher above the horizon before sunrise, making it easier to spot.
- **For an earth look at the parade:** by November 14, 2026, At the same stage of dawn, the planets have shifted slightly, and Mercury has become brighter and rises higher in the sky.
- **For the Mars–Jupiter conjunction:** Mars and Jupiter pass around November 17–18, 2026, when the planets appear closest together. Learn more about [planetary conjunctions](#).

Bonus: The [zodiacal](#) [meteor shower](#) peaks around November 17–18, 2026. If you're not before dawn to see the planets, you may also catch a few meteors under clear, dark skies.

Observing times on November 20, 2026

On November 20, Mercury is better placed for morning observation. Compared with November 14, it appears higher above the horizon, although the planets are more spread out horizontally in most of the listed cities.

City	Time zone	Visibility start	Best time on Nov 20 (local)	Visibility end	Mercury altitude	Azimuth span	Pair defining the span
Los Angeles, USA	PST (UTC−8)	05:20	05:55	06:05	11°	70.5°	Mercury–Jupiter
Mexico City, Mexico	CST (UTC−6)	05:45	06:15	06:25	12°	35.4°	Mercury–Jupiter
New York, USA	EST (UTC−5)	05:35	06:10	06:20	11°	72.5°	Mercury–Jupiter
London, UK	GMT (UTC+0)	06:10	06:35	06:50	9°	72.4°	Mercury–Jupiter
New Delhi, India	IST (UTC+5:30)	05:40	06:15	06:20	12°	64.7°	Mercury–Jupiter
Bangkok, Thailand	ICT (UTC+7)	05:20	05:50	05:55	12°	22.6°	Venus–Mars
Jakarta, Indonesia	WIB (UTC+7)	04:40	04:55	05:05	9°	65.8°	Mercury–Jupiter
Tokyo, Japan	JST (UTC+9)	05:15	05:45	05:55	11°	69.2°	Mercury–Jupiter

- The viewing interval (from **Visibility start** to **Visibility end**) is when Mercury is at least 3° above the horizon, as the stars and planets at least 10° above the horizon, and the Sun is below −6°.
- **Best time** is selected when the Sun is 8° below the horizon, then rounded to the nearest five minutes.
- **Mercury altitude** and **Azimuth span** are calculated for the displayed best time. Azimuth span measures the side-to-side spread of the planets along the horizon, between the two planets identified in the final column.

The viewing times depend on how bright the sky is before sunrise. Learn how the Sun's altitude affects visibility in our guide to the [different types of twilight](#).

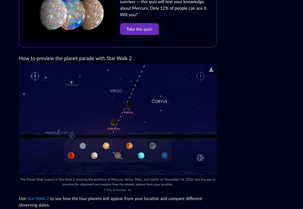
Observing times on November 14, 2026

Compared with November 20, the planets have a narrower horizontal spread on November 14 in most of the listed cities, but Mercury is still relatively low. Here's when to look for all four planets from different locations.

City	Time zone	Visibility start	Best time on Nov 14 (local)	Visibility end	Mercury altitude	Azimuth span	Pair defining the span
Los Angeles, USA	PST (UTC−8)	05:30	05:50	06:00	9°	55.1°	Mercury–Jupiter
Mexico City, Mexico	CST (UTC−6)	05:55	06:10	06:20	9°	31.3°	Mercury–Jupiter
New York, USA	EST (UTC−5)	05:45	06:00	06:10	8°	60.0°	Mercury–Mars
London, UK	GMT (UTC+0)	06:15	06:25	06:40	7°	65.1°	Mercury–Jupiter
New Delhi, India	IST (UTC+5:30)	05:50	06:10	06:20	9°	44.2°	Mercury–Jupiter
Bangkok, Thailand	ICT (UTC+7)	05:30	05:45	05:55	8°	24.2°	Venus–Mars
Jakarta, Indonesia	WIB (UTC+7)	04:50	04:55	05:05	6°	59.0°	Mercury–Mars
Tokyo, Japan	JST (UTC+9)	05:20	05:40	05:50	9°	55.7°	Mercury–Mars

The same visibility criteria and best-time definition apply.

Visibility from the Southern Hemisphere



The planetary alignment on November 20, 2026, as seen from Jakarta and Melbourne.

The complete alignment is difficult to observe from southern mid-latitudes. In cities such as Sydney, Melbourne, Cape Town, Santiago, and Buenos Aires, Mercury remains below 5° until civil twilight has begun throughout November 10–30.

This doesn't rule out seeing Mercury later in twilight, but the brighter sky makes it harder to detect. **Venus, Mars, and Jupiter are more accessible targets.**

Conditions improve closer to the equator. Jakarta, for example, has an observing interval for all four planets on both November 14 and 20, although Mercury still requires a clear horizon.

How to Find the Four Planets in November 2026

This is a [rare](#) [planetary alignment](#), featuring four planets **bright enough to be seen with the naked eye.** However, spotting the complete lineup requires clear skies and good timing before sunrise. Mercury is the main challenge because it appears low in the brightening dawn sky.

Planet	Constellation	Magnitude	How to recognize it
Jupiter	Leo	−2.1	A bright point of light near Mars
Mars	Leo	0.6	Much fainter than Jupiter, with a reddish-orange color
Venus	Virgo	−4.1	The brightest of the four planets
Mercury	Libra	−0.5	Low in the dawn sky; the hardest to spot

The constellations and approximate apparent magnitudes are given for November 20, 2026, when Mercury reaches its greatest western elongation.

For observers at northern mid-latitudes, **choose a spot with a clear view of the east-southeastern horizon**. Buildings, trees, hills, and haze can hide Mercury while the other planets remain clearly visible. For this event, a clear horizon matters more than escaping city lights.

Start with Jupiter and nearby Mars while the sky is still dark, then find **brilliant Venus** much lower in the sky. Leave Mercury for later, when it will be higher above the horizon. But don't wait too long — the approaching sunrise will make it harder to see. Use the [sky map](#) to locate each planet.

Try 7×50 or 10×50 binoculars to help find Mercury. A telescope is optional: a 70–100 mm refractor at about 50–100× can reveal Venus's phase and Jupiter's large moons and main cloud belts. Never point binoculars or a telescope toward the Sun.

Mercury may be tricky to spot, but how much do you know about it? Test your knowledge with our Mercury quiz.

How to preview the planet parade with Star Walk 2

The Planet Walk feature in Star Walk 2 showing the positions of Mercury, Venus, Mars, and Jupiter on November 14, 2026. Use the app to preview the alignment and capture how the planets appear from your location.
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Use Star Walk 2 to see how the four planets will appear from your location and compare different observing dates.

1. Open **Menu > Planets**.
2. Tap **Best sights to see planets**.
3. Select the November four-planet parade from the list.
4. Tap **Planet Walk** to see when and where each planet will appear in your sky.
5. To explore other dates and times, tap the date or time in **Time Machine** in the upper-right corner, then use the slider on the right side of the screen to adjust it.

November 2026 Planetary Alignment: FAQ

Here are answers to common questions about observing and photographing the four-planet parade.

Can I see the November 2026 planet parade after sunset?

No. This four-planet grouping is **a morning event**. Mercury and Venus appear before sunrise, while Mars and Jupiter rise earlier in the night.

Will the planets form a straight line?

The planets will appear roughly aligned along [the ecliptic](#), but won't form a perfectly straight line. They won't be lined up in space, either: the planets occupy different positions in their orbits around the Sun. The alignment is a matter of perspective from Earth.

The four-planet alignment on November 14, 2026, viewed from above the plane of the Solar System.
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For a visual explanation, see our planetary alignment infographic.

Can I photograph all four planets together?

Yes, but the planets will be spread across a large portion of the sky, so you'll need a wide-angle lens or a panorama to capture all four. Use a tripod and take several exposures. Mercury may be difficult to capture against the brightening dawn. Preview the arrangement from your location with a stargazing app before deciding how to frame the scene.

For more camera settings and practical advice, see our beginner's guide to astrophotography.

Is a planetary alignment the same as a conjunction?

No. A planetary alignment describes several planets appearing in the same region of the sky. A conjunction occurs when two objects share the same right ascension or ecliptic longitude — coordinates used to describe their positions.

November 2026 Planetary Alignment: Key Takeaways

Look for Mercury, Venus, Mars, and Jupiter before sunrise during November 13–22, 2026. November 14 offers a narrower horizontal arrangement in most of the listed cities, while around November 20–22, Mercury is usually higher and is easier to spot. For the closest Mars–Jupiter pairing, observe around November 13–16. Choose a clear morning and an unobstructed horizon. Use Star Walk 2 to preview the planets' positions and compare different dates from your location.

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