

What's Up in the Night Sky for DECEMBER



Presented by

Night Sky Dec 2024 Events | Geminids Meteor Shower 2024
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsyiHiSwuUY>

Don't Miss These Night Sky Events in December 2024 |
Geminid Meteor Shower | Jupiter Opposition
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OwNObRBWpgY>

10 of the BEST OBSERVATORIES in the WORLD

1. Mauna Kea Observatory, Hawaii, USA:
 - Known for its collection of world-class telescopes
 - Includes the Keck Observatory and Subaru Telescope
 - Located on the dormant Mauna Kea volcano
 - Offers exceptional viewing conditions
 - High altitude and minimal light pollution
 - Reference: <https://www.maunakeaobservatories.org/>
2. Very Large Telescope (VLT), Paranal Observatory, Chile:
 - Comprised of four 8.2-meter telescopes and
 - Four auxiliary telescopes
 - One of the most powerful optical telescopes in the world
 - Situated in the Atacama Desert
 - Some of the clearest skies on Earth
 - Reference: <https://www.eso.org/public/ireland/teles-instr/paranal-observatory/vlt/>
3. Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA), Chile:
 - An array of 66 radio telescopes
 - The largest astronomical project in existence
 - Located in the Atacama Desert
 - Observes celestial objects at millimeter and submillimeter wavelengths

- Reveals the birth of stars and planets.
 - Reference: <https://www.eso.org/public/teles-instr/alma/>
4. W.M. Keck Observatory, Mauna Kea, Hawaii, USA:
 - Two of the largest optical and infrared telescopes in the world
 - Each with a 10-meter primary mirror
 - Has made significant contributions to the study of:
 - Exoplanets
 - Black Holes
 - Early Universe
 - Reference: <https://www.keckobservatory.org/>
 5. Palomar Observatory, California, USA:
 - Home to the Hale Telescope, 200-inch reflecting telescope
 - Crucial role in numerous astronomical discoveries
 - Discovery of quasars and understanding of galaxy formation
 - Reference: <https://sites.astro.caltech.edu/palomar/>
 6. Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory (CTIO), Chile:
 - Hosts several telescopes
 - Including the 4-meter Victor M. Blanco Telescope
 - Located in the Chilean Andes
 - Excellent observing conditions
 - Instrumental in various astronomical research
 - Reference: <https://noirlab.edu/public/programs/ctio/>
 7. European Southern Observatory (ESO), Chile:
 - Premier ground-based astronomical observatory
 - Several sites in Chile, including La Silla, Paranal, and Chajnantor.
 - Operates a diverse range of telescopes, including:
 - Very Large Telescope
 - Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array.
 - Reference: <https://www.eso.org/>
 8. Kitt Peak National Observatory, Arizona, USA:
 - Home to a variety of telescopes, including:
 - Mayall 4-meter Telescope
 - McMath-Pierce Solar Telescope.
 - Located on Kitt Peak, a mountain in southern Arizona
 - Clear skies and minimal light pollution.
 - Reference: <https://kpno.noirlab.edu/>
 9. Gemini Observatory, Hawaii and Chile:
 - Partnership of international astronomical organizations
 - Two identical 8-meter telescopes, one in Hawaii and one in Chile
 - Offers near-infrared and optical capabilities
 - Study of a wide range of celestial objects.
 - Reference: <https://www.gemini.edu/>
 10. Very Large Array (VLA), New Mexico, USA:
 - Radio telescope array
 - Consists of 27 antennas spread over 22 miles.
 - High-resolution imaging and mapping of celestial objects.
 - Reference: <https://public.nrao.edu/visit/very-large-array/>
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'Baby' exoplanet, equivalent to 2-week-old infant, is the youngest alien world ever spotted



A "baby" exoplanet recently spotted relatively near to Earth is the youngest alien world ever seen; a new study suggests. Researchers say the rare sighting is linked to a mysteriously wonky protoplanetary disk around the exoplanet's host star. Image credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/R. Hurt, K. Miller (Caltech/IPAC)

Click for more information: <https://rb.gy/xwtnin>

Someone's aliens



This image from NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter shows a [human technosignature](#) on the Moon: the landing site of the Apollo 14 Lunar Module. It's one of the many signs of intelligent life [our species](#) has scattered throughout our Solar System, from spacecraft to radio waves. If other technologically advanced species are out there, could they be leaving [similar signs of their presence](#)?

[The latest issue of The Planetary Report](#) is all about how life on Earth contextualizes the search for life beyond our planet. You can [read the entire issue](#) for free online.



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