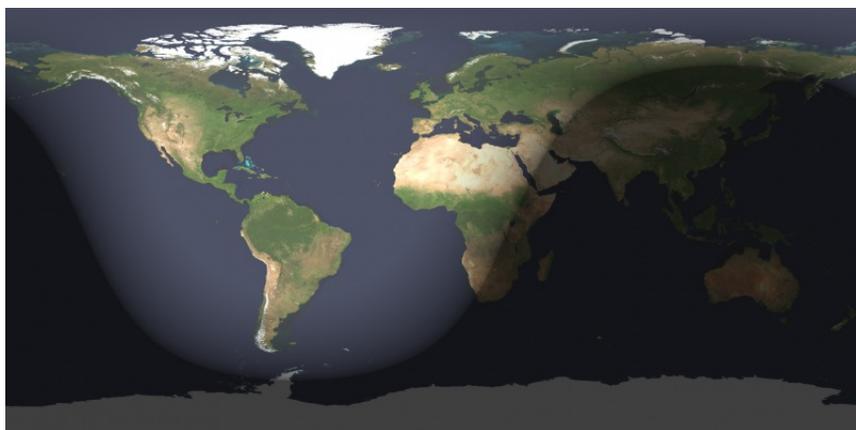


HAPPY SOLSTICE, EVERYONE!

If you're in the Northern Hemisphere, the June solstice is your signal to celebrate summer. If you're in the Southern Hemisphere, winter starts at this solstice. This 2019 June solstice takes place on June 21 at 15:54 UTC; At the instant of this June 2019 solstice, it's sunrise for the Hawaiian Islands, and sunset in the Middle East and Africa. It's noon in South America and midnight in eastern Asia. The solstice happens at the same instant for all of us, everywhere on Earth; only our clocks and calendars are different.



Worldwide map via the U.S. Naval Observatory shows the day and night sides of Earth at the instant of the June solstice (June 21, 2019, at 15:54 UTC).

Solstice brings extremes of daylight and darkness. Earth's orbit around the sun – and tilt on its axis – have brought us to a place in space where our world's Northern Hemisphere has its time of greatest daylight: its longest day and shortest night. Meanwhile, the June solstice brings the shortest day and longest night south of the equator.

The June solstice gives us the year's northernmost sunrise and northernmost sunset. The northernmost sunrise and sunset deliver the year's longest period of daylight to the Northern Hemisphere yet the shortest period of daylight in the Southern Hemisphere. North of the Arctic Circle, the Sun neither rises nor sets but stays above the horizon for 24 hours around the clock. South of the Antarctic circle, the Sun neither rises nor sets but stays beneath the horizon for 24 hours. In the Northern Hemisphere, noontime shadows are shortest at this solstice. On this solstice, the Sun takes its most northerly path across the sky for the year. It's the year's highest Sun, as seen from the Tropic of Cancer and all places north. Thus your noontime shadow is shortest. In the Southern Hemisphere, the opposite is true. This solstice marks the lowest Sun and longest noontime shadow for those on the southern part of Earth's globe.



Nikolaos Pantazis wrote: "Every year, on the days around the summer solstice, the setting Sun aligns with that rock, near the village of Platanos, Peloponnese, Greece."

Each solstice marks a "turning" of the year. Even as this northern summer begins with the solstice, throughout the world the solstice also represents a "turning" of the year. To many cultures, the solstice can mean a limit or a culmination of something. From around the world, the Sun is now setting and rising as far north as it ever does. The solstice marks when the Sun reaches its northernmost point for the year. After the June solstice, the Sun will begin its subtle shift southward on the sky's dome again. **Thus even in summer's beginning, we find the seeds of summer's end.**

The latest sunset doesn't come on the day of the summer solstice though. Neither does the earliest sunrise. The exact dates vary with latitude, but the sequence is always the same: earliest sunrise before the summer solstice, longest day on the summer solstice, latest sunset after the summer solstice.

Shortest day for Southern Hemisphere, but not the latest sunrise. The latest sunrise doesn't come on the day of the winter solstice. Neither does the earliest sunset. The exact dates vary with latitude, but the sequence is always the same: earliest sunset before the winter solstice, shortest day on the winter solstice, latest sunset after the winter solstice.

Some quick info that will help you connect with nature at the June solstice 2019!

AK, with EarthSky and Wikipedia Notes