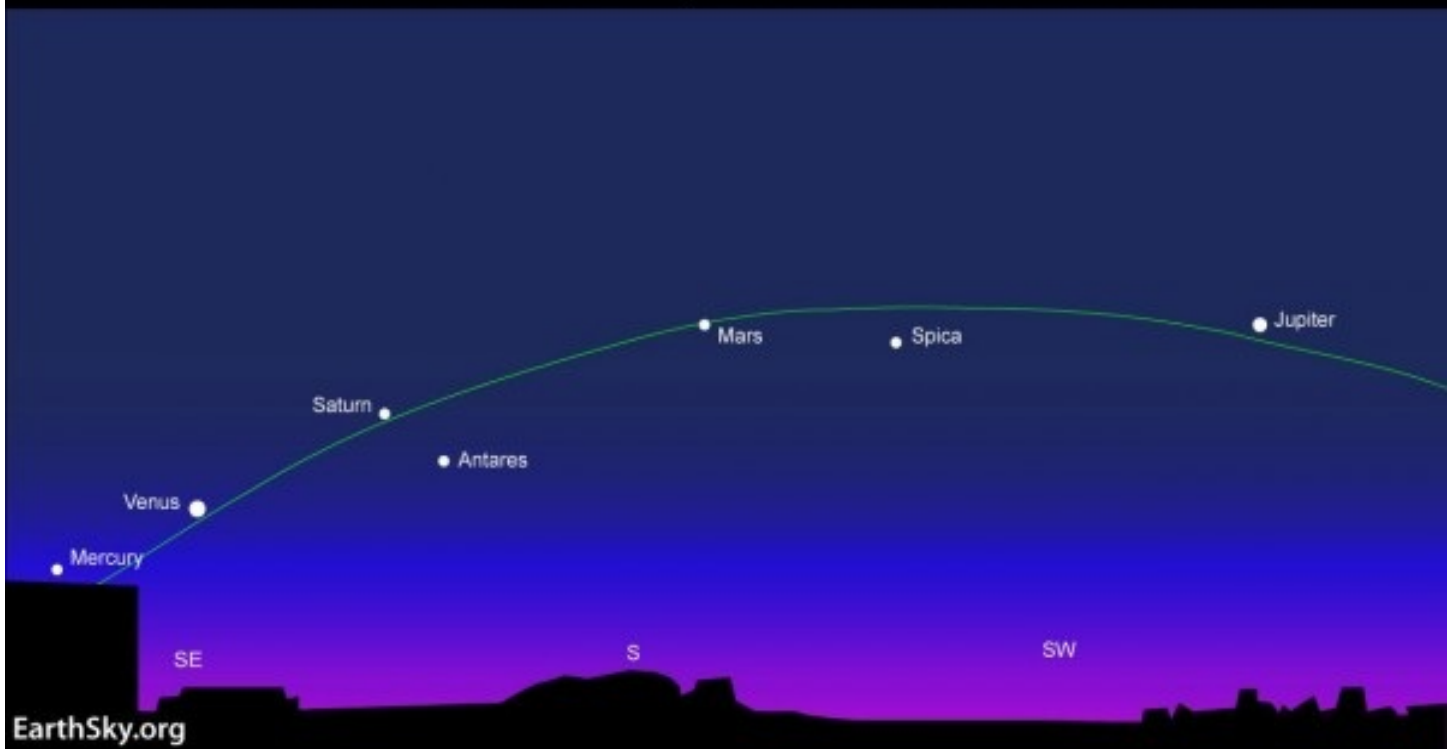


## See all five bright planets simultaneously!

### Southeast to Southwest, 80 Minutes Before Sunrise



All five bright planets will appear together in the morning sky from about January 20 to February 20, 2016. Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn can be seen simultaneously before dawn beginning around January 20, 2016. And they'll remain visible before dawn from about January 20 to February 20, 2016.

The last time that all five visible planets appeared in the same sky together was from about December 15, 2004, to January 15, 2005. That was 10 years ago.

Seek Mercury near the horizon and on line with Venus and Saturn. In their outward order along the ecliptic from the rising sun the five bright planets are Mercury, Venus, Saturn, Mars and Jupiter. These planets are easily seen in our sky because their disks reflect sunlight, and these relatively nearby worlds tend to shine with a steadier light than the distant, twinkling stars.

The two other bright objects along the line are the stars Antares in the constellation Scorpion (with its reddish hue often mistaken for the planet Mars) and Spica in the constellation Virgo). The chart below shows the moon's position on the sky's dome relative to these five bright planets from January 27 to February 6.

Please note, EarthSky charts are intended for the northern hemisphere, as is the orientation of the Moon. Of course, you can catch most of these planets long before dawn. Jupiter rises first, in the evening hours, followed by Mars after midnight and then Saturn, Venus and Mercury.

May you be blessed with clear skies for the upcoming planetary spectacle, with all five bright planets taking stage in the same sky from January 20 to February 20. When will it happen again? Later this year, in the evening sky from August 13 to 19.

Relative distances of the planets in astronomical units AU (Sun-Earth distance):

Mercury: 0.387 AU, Venus: 0.723 AU,  
Earth: 1.000 AU, Mars: 1.524 AU,  
Jupiter: 5.203 AU, Saturn: 9.529 AU,  
Uranus: 19.19 AU, Neptune: 30.06 AU

AK with EarthSky Notes

### Southeast to South, Predawn/Dawn Sky

