

Stargazing in the Summer

Relaxing on a summer evening to stare in wonder at the universe above us is a tradition many families enjoy. The background of shooting stars and beautiful constellations will lead to lifelong memories for everyone. Stars are not the only thing you'll notice during a summer stargaze.

In fact, NASA says you can easily notice several satellites as they pass overhead. The International Space Station and flare-ups of a passing Iridium satellite are the most noticeable.

GAZING TIPS

Depending on where you live, summer nights may still feel brisk and chill. Especially if you are planning to stargaze far from home, make sure you pack extra supplies and follow the advice from NASA for a successful adventure.

Bring a blanket and extra clothes: Areas like deserts and mountains can cool down drastically, even if the temperatures were warm all day. Bring along an extra set of clothing and a blanket to wrap yourself up in or to lie on and enjoy the view overhead.

Bring bug spray: Spending much time outdoors introduces risks of contracting illnesses from mosquitoes and other insects. Make sure you have enough repellent for everyone in your group. Check your local sporting goods store for a selection of products for all ages.

Plan for rain: Rain can be unpredictable during the summer. Don't let the water ruin your fun or equipment. Plan to bring along plenty of



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rain-repelling clothing and protection for your stargazing tools.

DON'T BLINK

You don't necessarily need expensive equipment to enjoy a night of stargazing. Especially if you're new to the hobby, it's best to gauge your

interest by watching the sky with your naked eye. Learn how to find popular constellations like the Big Dipper, Little Dipper, Scorpius and the Summer Triangle. You will also be dazzled by shooting stars and meteor showers. Educate yourself on the legends of the star patterns to impress your

gazing partners and teach children about the stories behind the constellations.

**DEEP-SPACE
ATTRACTIONS**

If you have a pair of binoculars or a telescope handy, they can show you parts of space that aren't visible to the naked

eye. NASA recommends looking for great globular clusters in Hercules and Scorpius, the elusive Veil Nebula and the Ring Nebula.

Whether you choose to stargaze in your own backyard or travel to a desolate location, you will be treated to a rewarding experience.

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