



This map shows the sky at 8pm in mid-December. Orient the map so that the direction you are facing is at the bottom and then hold the map overhead.
 Download a new star chart each month at www.unm.edu/~pbgrebe

December Sky Events

At the beginning of the month, **Mercury** is visible low above the horizon in the pre-dawn hours. **Jupiter** and **Mars** join Mercury in the eastern pre-dawn sky in early December. The trio will appear within 5 degrees together on the morning of December 10th, about 45 minutes before sunrise.

While there are no planets visible in the early evening, **Saturn** rises by 10pm in early December. By the end of the year, Saturn rises near 8pm.

Moon Phases

The **Full Moon** is up all night, rising with the setting Sun, and setting at sunrise.

The **Last Quarter Moon** rises in the middle of the night and sets mid-day. The days between Full Moon and Last Quarter are the best for looking for the moon in the morning after sunrise.

The **New Moon** shares the daytime sky with the sun and is obscured from view.

The **First Quarter Moon** rises mid-day and sets at about midnight. The days around the First Quarter Moon are best for looking for the moon in the afternoon.

