



## Total Lunar Eclipse - May 15th & 16th

There are two total lunar eclipses visible from North America in 2022, and while May's favors the east coast, November's will favor the west. Totality lasts 1 hour and 25 minutes for both, giving observers throughout the continent the opportunity to see the Moon fully eclipsed.

The penumbral phase of May's eclipse begins at 9:32 PM ET, but you may not notice a difference until the partial phase begins nearly an hour later. Totality begins at 11:29 PM ET (8:29 PM PT), when the Moon is high over the south for east coast observers but low over the eastern horizon for those in the west. The Moon will be among the faint stars of Libra at the time, but look to the east and compare its color to ruddy Antares in Scorpius.

Totality ends at 12:53 AM ET (9:53 PM PT) with the partial phase ending an hour and two minutes later. Finally, the end of the penumbral phase also signals the end of the eclipse itself at 2:50 AM ET (11:50 PM PT).

Source: Kazuhiro NOGI

## OUR NEAREST NEIGHBORS

**Uranus** is in conjunction with the Sun on the 5<sup>th</sup> and therefore won't be visible this month, leaving **Mercury** as the only planet to be seen in the evening sky. It's visible toward the west-northwest after sunset, with the crescent Moon appearing to its upper left on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Be sure to catch Mercury while you can, as it will be gone by mid-month. Meanwhile, in the morning sky, **Saturn** continues to trundle through the northeastern corner of Capricornus and is joined by the last quarter Moon on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Mars** and **Neptune** appear within the same binocular field of view from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>, with the pair just 33 arcseconds apart on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Mars then hops into Pisces the next day and into the same binocular field of view as **Jupiter**. It'll catch up to the giant planet on the 29<sup>th</sup> when 35 arcseconds will separate them. This is Jupiter's second conjunction of the month, as it'll be 37 arcseconds away from **Venus** on the 1<sup>st</sup>. The waning crescent Moon appears nearby on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. There's a total lunar eclipse when **the Moon** turns full on the 15<sup>th</sup>. It then turns new on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**The Eta Aquariid Meteor Shower:** While best seen from the southern hemisphere, the Eta Aquariid meteor shower can produce 10-30 shooting stars in the early hours of May 5<sup>th</sup>. This year could be worth the effort as the waxing crescent Moon will set early in the evening before.

**Mizar & Alcor:** One of the most famous double stars in the sky, Mizar & Alcor make an easy target for naked-eye observers. Binoculars provide a nice view of the pair, but Mizar is itself double, and a small telescope at low power is all you need to split it.

**Alpha Canum Venaticorum - Cor Caroli:** Like Mizar, Cor Caroli can be split with any telescope at low power. The primary appears white and about 2 or 3 times brighter than the pale gold secondary star.

**M101 - The Pinwheel Galaxy:** A 200mm scope can show the Pinwheel's bright core and faint arms, but you'll need a light pollution filter to bring out any further details.

Mizar & Alcor



Source: Gary Fildes