



La nuit est belle : turning off public lighting in Greater Geneva

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What will we see in the sky after sunset on September 26, 2019?

Local time Geneva (GMT+2)

From 8 p.m.:

- **Jupiter**, the largest planet in the solar system with its moons discovered by Galileo will be visible in the South/South East, 17 degrees above the horizon. It will look like the brightest white star in the sky. With a magnification of 30 you will be able to see its moons. Find a position offering a clear horizon towards the South-West.

After 8.10 p.m.:

- **Saturn**, the second largest planet in the solar system with its famous rings will be visible due South at 21 degrees above the southern horizon. It will look like a greenish-yellow star, much less bright than Jupiter. With a magnification of 40 to 50 you will be able to visualize its rings. However, for the best effect a magnification of 100 is necessary. To get good light with a magnification of 100, a diameter of 100 to 150 mm aperture is recommended for the telescope or lunette. Find a position offering a clear horizon towards the South.

From 9.07 p.m. when the sky is much darker, amazing objects will appear in the sky :

- **The Milky Way**, our own galaxy, is made up of 100 to 200 billion stars of which the sun is one, and it moves across the sky after sunset. To see the centre of our galaxy you need to look South-East. The Milky Way will rise to its zenith above our heads, then move down to the North-East horizon. For the best view, find a position with a clear horizon to the South-East. Wide view binoculars, e.g. 7 x 50, will be excellent for viewing.
- **The North Star** is the star which is vertical to the North Pole. It is at 46 degrees above the horizon to the North. You can see it with the naked eye.
- **The Great Bear** or Big Dipper is the famous constellation consisting of 7 stars in the form of a plough or saucepan. It will be visible in the North-West, 30 degrees above the horizon. You can see it with the naked eye.

Important: Since the Earth turns on its axis, the heavenly bodies and stars change position. The whole sky moves 15 degrees per hour around the North Star. For example, once the planets Jupiter and Saturn appear in the sky, their orbit takes them to set at 10.42 p.m. and 00.40 respectively with a theoretical horizon at sea level (i.e. without the presence of mountains).

Why September 26, 2019?

- Verticality of the Milky Way (our galaxy) above the horizon after sunset to give the best view possible to show "La nuit est belle"
- Close to the new moon: giving a greater contrast to the Milky Way
- Jupiter and Saturn visible: two magnificent planets to view through a telescope
- Dark sky as from 9.07 p.m. accessible to curious people of all ages.