

## March 2016 Skies

March 1st	Kaloakukahi (Third Quarter Moon) at 1:11 pm HST
March 7th	Jupiter at Opposition
March 8th	Muku (New Moon) at 3:54 am HST
	Partial Solar Eclipse, maximum eclipse at 5:37 pm HST
March 15th	‘Olekukahi (First Quarter Moon) at 9:46 pm HST
March 19th	Spring Equinox
March 23rd	Hoku (Full Moon) at 8:20 am HST
	Penumbral Lunar Eclipse, maximum eclipse at 1:47 am HST
March 31st	Kaloakukahi (Third Quarter Moon) at 1:11 pm HST

On March 1st the sun will rise at 6:39 am and set at 6:26 pm, yielding 11 hours, 46 minutes, and 26 seconds of daylight. By March 21st the sun will rise at 6:14 am and set at 6:34 pm, yielding 12 hours, 20 minutes, and 8 seconds of daylight.

With the winter solstice past, the sun will begin to rise and set farther and farther north on our horizon, and the days will start getting longer. On March 14th the sun will rise at 6:29 am and set at 6:30 pm, yielding almost exactly 12 hours of daylight. This is the first date this year when this will occur. March 19th will mark the Spring Equinox when the sun will rise exactly in the east and set exactly in the west. By the end of March we will gain back 33 minutes and 42 seconds of daylight.

## March 2016 Highlights

On March 7th Jupiter will be at a point in its orbit called opposition. At this position it will be the closest to Earth and will rise at the exact same time the sun sets. We will be able to see Jupiter throughout the entire night and it may appear to be marginally brighter than usual.

In the afternoon of March 8th we will be able to witness a partial solar eclipse as the sun prepares to set. This eclipse will start at about 4:37 pm and reach its maximum eclipse at 5:37 pm. The last part of the eclipse will occur as the sun is setting at 6:28 pm. The best way to observe this eclipse will be to construct a simple cardboard pinhole projector or to use a telescope with a properly fitted solar filter. Even during an eclipse, it is not safe to directly observe the sun using any magnification device.

In the early morning hours of March 23rd we will be able to witness a penumbral eclipse of the moon. The moment of maximum eclipse will occur at 1:47 am. Compared to the “Blood Moon” appearances of total lunar eclipses, penumbral lunar eclipses are significantly less impressive. During this eclipse the moon will pass through the partial shadow (penumbra) of the Earth. This causes the surface of the moon to darken slightly but not completely.



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# March Sky Chart

