



How to watch the Perseid meteor shower

Meteors are bright streaks of light that shoot across the sky so fast they can be seen in the blink of an eye. Commonly known as shooting stars, they can sometimes turn into bright fireballs that can last a few seconds. The Perseid meteor shower can produce in excess of 100 meteors per hour at its peak.

To see the meteor shower, you don't need a telescope, binoculars or any other equipment; all you need is your eyes.

Get comfortable

- Find a spot away from bright lights and let your eyes get used to the dark – This will take about 15 to 20 minutes.
- Dress accordingly as August evenings can get quite chilly.
- Lay on a reclining chair or lounger, or just put a blanket on the floor.
- Use sleeping bags, blankets, and pillows, along with some food and drink, to make observing meteors as enjoyable as possible.

Start looking for shooting stars

- You do not need to look in any particular direction as meteors appear randomly anywhere in the sky.
- The most important thing is to be able to keep looking up filling your gaze with as much sky as possible, for as long as possible.

Enjoy the Perseid meteor shower, but remember it can take quite a few minutes before you see a shooting star so don't look away, you may miss one!

Other things to look out for

The Milky Way – if your skies are dark enough and you can get away from light pollution you may be able to make out a faint milky band stretching across the sky. This is the Milky Way, our home galaxy and we are looking at it edge on from within. It is made up of dust, gases and billions of stars.

The International Space Station (ISS) – if you live in or are close to the UK you will be in for a treat during the Perseid meteor shower in 2013 as the International Space Station is visible over UK skies. This orbital laboratory is the size of a football pitch, travels at 1,7500 mph and is around 200 miles up! It orbits the Earth every 90 minutes and can be seen a couple of times each night. It can be incredibly bright and will look like a fast moving star sailing across the sky. For info on timings and how to see it visit www.meteorwatch.org.

There are many wonders to see including constellations, planets and much more.

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