Orionid Meteor Shower 2026: Viewing Times

Peak night Wednesday, Oct. 21 into Thursday, Oct. 22 · up to about 20 meteors an hour from a dark site · local times

Peak night Oct. 21–22

The golden window: the moon is about 86% lit and bright until it sets. Watch from **moonset** until **dark until**, when dawn twilight starts to wash out the sky. The mornings of Oct. 21 and Oct. 23 work too, with moonset about an hour earlier or later.

MOONSET AND DARK SKY, MORNING OF THURSDAY, OCT. 22

City	Moonset	Dark until	Moonset Oct. 21	Moonset Oct. 23
New York ET	3:13 a.m.	5:43 a.m.	2:07 a.m.	4:19 a.m.
Washington, D.C. ET	3:27 a.m.	5:56 a.m.	2:23 a.m.	4:32 a.m.
Atlanta ET	4:02 a.m.	6:25 a.m.	3:01 a.m.	5:03 a.m.
Miami ET	3:49 a.m.	6:06 a.m.	2:54 a.m.	4:46 a.m.
Chicago CT	3:09 a.m.	5:38 a.m.	2:02 a.m.	4:16 a.m.
Houston CT	3:50 a.m.	6:08 a.m.	2:52 a.m.	4:49 a.m.
Dallas CT	3:54 a.m.	6:14 a.m.	2:54 a.m.	4:55 a.m.
Denver MT	3:23 a.m.	5:48 a.m.	2:18 a.m.	4:29 a.m.
Phoenix MST	2:57 a.m.	5:15 a.m.	1:57 a.m.	3:59 a.m.
Los Angeles PT	3:22 a.m.	5:40 a.m.	2:22 a.m.	4:24 a.m.
San Francisco PT	3:37 a.m.	5:57 a.m.	2:34 a.m.	4:42 a.m.
Seattle PT	3:29 a.m.	5:56 a.m.	2:17 a.m.	4:42 a.m.

METEOR-WATCHING CHECKLIST

- [ ] Check the forecast for clear skies
- [ ] Pick a dark spot away from streetlights
- [ ] Set an alarm for moonset (table)
- [ ] Warm layers, hat and gloves
- [ ] Blanket, sleeping pad or reclining chair
- [ ] Hot drink in a thermos
- [ ] Red flashlight or phone red-light mode
- [ ] Phone brightness down; no screens for 20-30 minutes
- [ ] Face southeast to south, look halfway up
- [ ] Count meteors for 15 minutes at a time

MY COUNT

Start	+15 min	+30 min	+45 min
+60 min	+75 min	+90 min	Best one

WHERE TO LOOK

The meteors seem to come from near Orion's raised club, high in the southeast to south before dawn. Look 30 to 40 degrees away from that point, about halfway up the sky. No telescope or binoculars needed.

Sources: U.S. Naval Observatory (moonset, sunrise, moon phase); "dark until" = start of astronomical twilight, calculated for each city. Rates: American Meteor Society. Times are local daylight time except Phoenix (MST).