

Cayman Islands Astronomical Society - December 2023 Newsletter

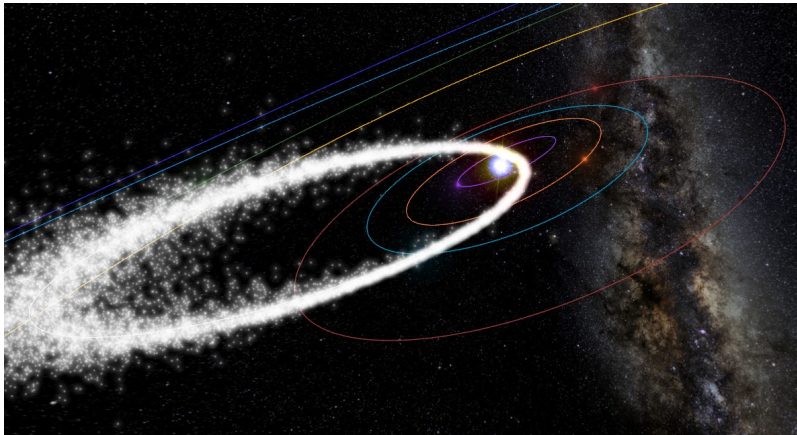
Cayman Astronomy <cayman.astronomy@yahoo.com>
To: CI Astronomical Society CIAS <cayman.astronomy@yahoo.com>

Fri, Dec 8, 2023 at 8:02 AM

Upcoming Sky Events for the Cayman Islands

- Geminids Meteor Shower Peak **13-14 December**
- Public stargazing **14 December**
- Winter Solstice **21 December**
- NORAD tracks Santa **24-25 December** 😊

Geminids Meteor Shower Peak



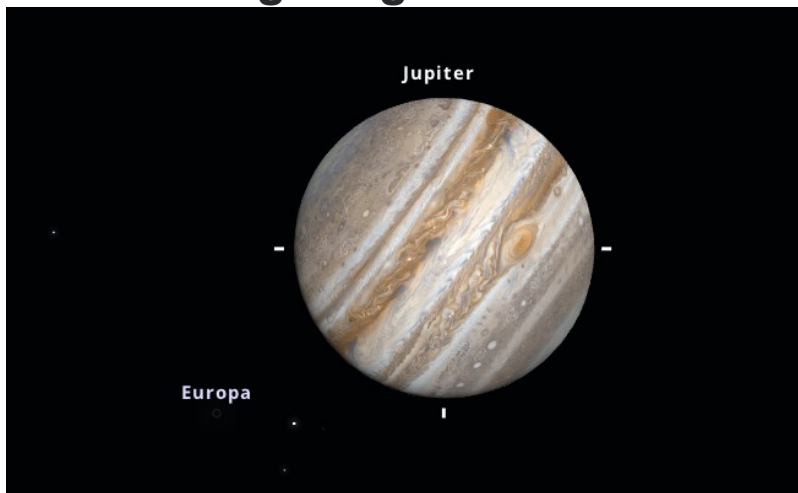
13-14 December - around midnight

The Geminids are the hands-down most awesome meteor shower of the year for us in the Cayman Islands. The moon will be absent this year so the dark skies will be perfect! Just look up! The event peaks around midnight on the night of the 13th of December. It's one to stay up for!

Some members of the CIAS may be arranging a special trip to a very dark spot in the East of Grand Cayman. If you want to join the "expedition", contact us.

Image adapted from www.meteorshowers.org

Public Stargazing at Seven Mile Public Beach



14 December - 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

We will have beautiful views of the thin crescent moon, Saturn, Jupiter and the Andromeda Galaxy. Jupiter's great red spot will be facing the Earth, so you may even be able to view this giant storm twice the size of the

Earth on its surface! Further, the timing is very close to the peak of the Geminids meteor shower, so we may even catch a shooting star or two!

Please find us on the grassy patch near the [Seven Mile Public Beach parking lot](#) from 6:30 pm.

All are welcome, and the events are free. Events will be cancelled if there is over 50% cloud cover, so check the [Facebook event page](#) for the latest updates.

Winter Solstice

Solar data for the selected location

Dawn:	06:30:31
Sunrise:	06:54:10
Culmination:	12:23:32
Sunset:	17:52:55
Dusk:	18:16:33
Daylight duration:	10h58m45s



21 December 10:27 p.m.

The shortest day of the year for us in the Cayman Islands will be the 21st of December, with only 10 hours, 58 minutes, and 45 seconds of daylight. This is the Winter Solstice for the Northern Hemisphere, and this day will feature the most southerly sunrise and sunset of the year. The sunsets and sunrises will inch a bit further North daily for the next six months after the solstice.

Image adapted from www.suncalc.org

NORAD tracks Santa



24 December 6 a.m. to 25 December 2 a.m.

Since 1955, Santa and his sleigh's movements from the North Pole have been "tracked" and shared with the public by the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and its predecessors. Get live updates of his movements on Christmas Eve! Learn more at <https://www.noradsanta.org/en/noradhq#HowWeTrackSanta>

Upcoming opportunities to see the International Space Station

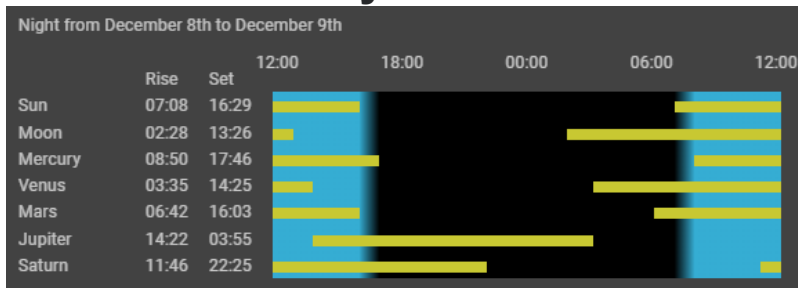
Click on the date to get a star chart and other pass details. The lower the magnitude (more negative), the brighter the pass.

You can learn more about how we can see the space station in our [ISS explainer video](#).

Soon, we aim to set up an online ISS photography seminar for members with renowned ISS photographer Szabolcs Nagy from spacestationguys.com.

Date	Brightness (mag)	Start			Highest point			End			Pass type
		Time	Alt.	Az.	Time	Alt.	Az.	Time	Alt.	Az.	
08 Dec	-0.3	19:23:04	10°	WSW	19:24:18	12°	SW	19:25:34	10°	SW	visible
09 Dec	-1.2	18:32:58	10°	WNW	18:35:47	25°	SW	18:38:34	10°	S	visible
12 Dec	-0.5	06:16:46	10°	S	06:19:06	18°	SE	06:21:25	10°	E	visible
14 Dec	-3.7	06:14:47	10°	SW	06:18:07	85°	SE	06:21:26	10°	NE	visible
15 Dec	-2.0	05:26:22	10°	SSW	05:29:23	33°	SE	05:32:26	10°	ENE	visible
16 Dec	-0.7	04:40:57	15°	ESE	04:40:57	15°	ESE	04:42:44	10°	E	visible
16 Dec	-2.4	06:14:35	10°	W	06:17:12	21°	NW	06:19:49	10°	N	visible
17 Dec	-2.5	05:29:41	28°	N	05:29:41	28°	N	05:31:33	10°	NNE	visible

Planets Visibility



Here's the current visibility of the planets from stellarium-web.org

CIAS Membership

If you are interested in joining the CIAS, speak with any of us at our public events or drop us an email. All are welcome!

Annual dues are 15KYD for adults and 5KYD for children. Membership allows the use of club equipment and inclusion in our internal messaging. Members can also reach out to the public as volunteers at public events and special activities for more specific audiences, such as schools or other organisations.

Best regards,

Ty

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Tiyen Miller
President

Cayman Islands Astronomical Society

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<http://www.cias.space>

[facebook.com/caymanastronomy](https://www.facebook.com/caymanastronomy)

The Cayman Islands Astronomical Society has been bringing together people interested in astronomy since 1991 to promote astronomy to the public. CIAS is registered as a Non-Profit Organisation in the Cayman Islands (NP-358)