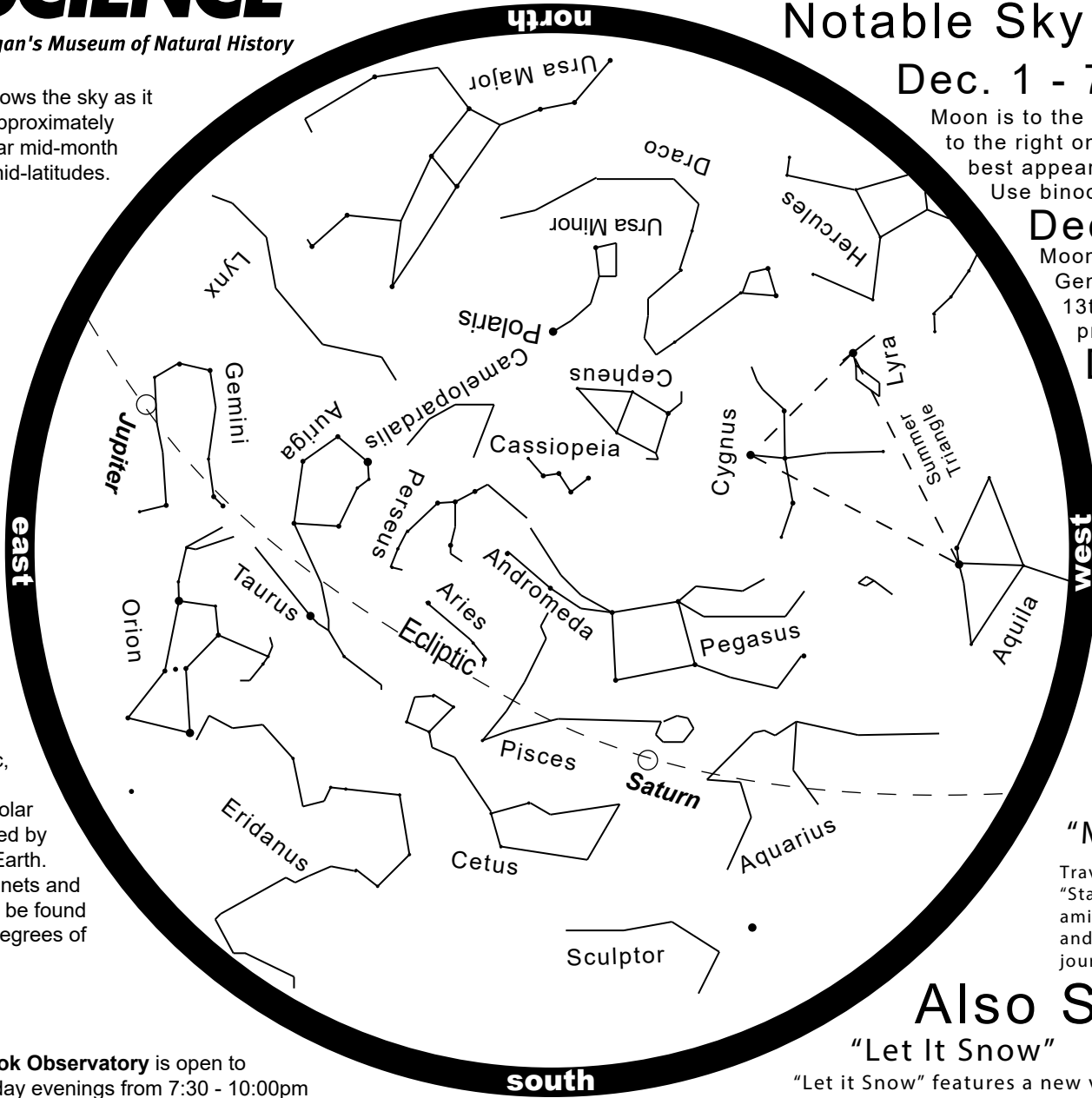


DECEMBER 2025

Notable Sky Happenings



This chart shows the sky as it appears at approximately 8pm EST near mid-month at northern mid-latitudes.



What is that dashed line? It's the ecliptic, the reference plane of the solar system, defined by the Sun and Earth. The major planets and the Moon can be found within a few degrees of this plane.

Dec. 1 - 7

Moon is to the right of Jupiter; Pollux is above and Castor is to the right on the 7th (W morning). Also, Mercury makes its best appearance for the year in the ESE morning twilight. Use binoculars and look about 45 minutes before sunrise.

Dec. 8 - 14

Moon is to the left of Regulus on the 10th (S morn.). Geminid Meteor Shower peaks on the night of the 13th-14th. One of the best showers of the year, it produces up to 60 meteors per hour on average.

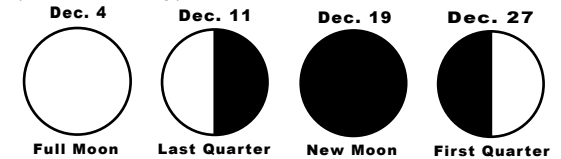
Dec. 15 - 21

The December (winter) solstice occurs at 10:03 AM EST on the 21st. The Ursid Meteor Shower peaks on the evening of the 21st to 22nd.

This minor shower produces only about 5-10 meteors per hour.

Dec. 22 - 31

The Moon is to the right of Saturn on the 26th (SW morning).



Now Showing

"Mystery of the Christmas Star"

Travel back in time 2,000 years to explore the nature of the "Star" that guided the wise men to Bethlehem. We will examine astronomical events that were occurring at the time and see if any were remarkable enough to have sparked the journey. (Extra shows are presented during the holidays.)

Also Showing

"Let It Snow"

"Let it Snow" features a new variety of festive classics from Frank Sinatra and Chuck Berry to Burl Ives and Brenda Lee, and includes a finale by the Trans Siberian Orchestra. The soundtrack is visually enhanced with thematic animation and all-dome scenery. This 32-minute program is a fun and entertaining experience for all ages, especially families.

The Cranbrook Observatory is open to the public Friday evenings from 7:30 - 10:00pm EST, and the first Sunday of the month from 1:00 - 4:00pm for solar viewing.

For observatory information visit <http://science.cranbrook.edu/explore/observatory>

For astronomy information visit <http://science.cranbrook.edu>