

# How to watch the Perseid meteor shower

The second week in August heralds the best time to view the annual Perseid meteor shower – shooting stars spawned by a comet

**Aug 11-13, 2021:** Earth enters densest part of comet's stream of dust particles – peak time to view is early morning when there is no moonlight to spoil display

## Meteors' radiant centre

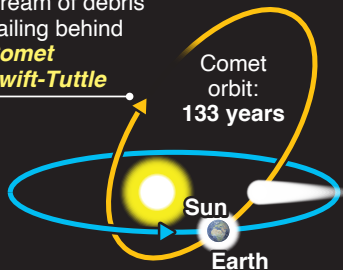
Frequency: **60** meteors per hour

Average entry velocity: **58km/s**

**Perseid cloud:** 1,000-year-old stream of debris trailing behind

**Comet Swift-Tuttle**

Comet orbit:  
133 years



**Jul 17-Aug 24, 2021:** Earth passes through comet's tail

## HOW TO SEE THEM

Best seen in dark, open sky, looking northeast towards constellation of **Perseus**, where Perseids appear to radiate from (allow 30 minutes for eyes to fully adjust to darkness)

