

Solstice means 'Sun stands still'

The Mayan apocalypse and winter solstice both occur tomorrow (Friday.) It's a very special day on the Mayan calendar. People are panicking around the World not that it's the first day of winter... but that the second day of winter might not happen.

After December 21 the days start getting longer again in the northern hemisphere. During winter solstice the northern polar tilt of the planet's polar hemisphere is farthest away from the sun. Also, in the Northern Hemisphere, the sun's daily maximum elevation is at its lowest. In many countries in the Southern Hemisphere, including Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, winter begins on 1 June and ends on 31 August. Their summer solstice is December 21. The Equinox is when both poles are equal stance from the sun.

The Mayans anticipated that the earth is going to experience a collision with a planet on 21st December 2012. The precise



manner of Armageddon is actually quite vague, but it ranges from a catastrophic celestial collision between

Earth and a mythical planet or a giant solar storm. Panic has spread around the world. In France

people were getting ready to climb a mountain where they believe aliens will rescue them. I checked

my local weather and all seems clear December 21 so far.

NASA explained:

"The story started with claims that Nibiru, a supposed planet discovered by the Sumerians, is headed toward Earth. This catastrophe was initially predicted for May 2003, but when nothing happened the doomsday date was moved forward to December 2012 and linked to the end of one of the cycles in the ancient Mayan calendar at the winter solstice in 2012 — hence the predicted doomsday date of December 21, 2012," NASA said.

But just as your desk calendar ends on Dec. 31 and world keeps going on, the same goes for the Mayan calendar, NASA explained. Just before you run out of pages doesn't mean life as we know it will cease to exist.

Just after sunset December 21 the brightest two planets will be shining, weather permitting. Venus, the brightest, rides low in the southwest just above the setting sun. Jupiter, the second brightest planet, is high in the south.



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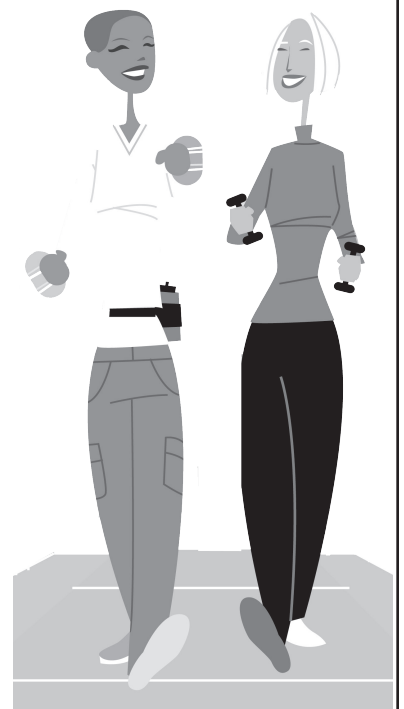
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