

# Astronomy Picture of the Day

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2026 April 27



**Comet R3 PanSTARRS Behind Satellite Trails**  
Image Credit & Copyright: [Uli Fehr](#)

**Explanation:** Can you find the comet? Somewhere through this web of satellite trails is Comet [C/2025 R3 \(PanSTARRS\)](#), a bright visitor passing through the inner [Solar System](#). Now, the [orbiting satellites](#) themselves only [appear as streaks](#) because of the long camera exposure, over 10 minutes in this case. On the contrary, [to the eye](#), satellites appear as points that drift slowly across the night sky and shine by [reflecting sunlight](#) -- primarily just after sunset and before sunrise. The featured image was taken just before sunrise two weeks ago from [Bavaria, Germany](#). Presently, [Comet R3 PanSTARRS](#) is hard to see for even another reason -- because it is so (angularly) close to the [Sun](#). As the comet rounds the Sun, it will be [best seen](#) in coming weeks from [southern hemisphere](#) skies, although then it will be heading out to interstellar space and fading. If you haven't yet found the comet, [don't despair](#); please take a [closer look](#) just above the image center.

Tomorrow's picture: [cometary mountains](#)

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