

Our Night Sky for the week of August 27

At this time of the year as we leave the very short summer nights behind us, what is really nice is you can spend some time under a fairly dark sky at a reasonable time in the evening. Near the end of the month, when the interesting objects in the sky will be somewhat diminished by a full or nearly full moon, take a look at the moon.

The moon, at about a quarter of a million miles distant, is close enough that it's surface can be studied in detail with modest equipment. If using a telescope, ensure you use a lunar filter if the moon is greater than half full.

Maps of the moon's craters, mountains, valleys and plains are easy to source starting with maps and a guide to exploring the moon for free from NASA.

The NASA offering is to help you participate in [International Observe the Moon Night October 21, 2023](#).

Depending on the local "moon time" the surface can sometimes be in shadow and sometimes even the deep fissures are exposed. Mountain valleys at the edge of the moons disk allow you to see deep valleys. The moon can be a very interesting challenge. I have a friend, he is the person proof reading these scripts, who knows the moon's topography better than some people know this town.