

Our Night Sky for the week of September 3.

Last week I suggested you take a closer look at our moon. A quick Google search for NASA moon maps gives you a link promoting [International Observe the Moon night](#), Saturday October 21. Our very bright moon will be washing out a lot of the sky for about another ten days until new moon on September 14th. Let's take a look at the [material](#) you can download from NASA. You can follow the [pictures](#) to locate several of the Apollo landing sites. These photos were taken from a lunar orbiter. It's not possible to see the actual landing sites from earth but using the maps and photos you can locate the positions starting with the familiar Sea of Tranquility and several others.

NASA picked an excellent time for the lunar viewing night as most of the suggested objects will be illuminated at almost 90 degrees from our viewing angle. This means the mountains and valleys on the moon will be casting shadows and it will be much easier to see how large these features are. Some of the valleys on the moon are bigger and deeper than the Grand Canyon and several mountains are four and five kilometers high. Check out some of these sights in the next couple of nights when the sunlight striking the moon is almost overhead, and they are not producing shadows, and again on October 21st when the sunlight will define how spectacular some of the lunar sights are.