

Our Night Sky for March 30 th, 2026

Let's talk about the moon tonight the moon is referred to as 13% waxing. What does that mean? It means the moon is very close to full, which occurs at April 2 at 2:12 UTC. For the last several days the moon has been said to be waxing. Think of candle making and repeated dipping to increase the size of the candle. For the first few days after full moon from 100% illuminated until 50% it is called waning gibbous. During waning phase, the light is always on the left side of the moon, the light is left or leaving. When it reaches half the disk illuminated it is called third or last quarter. Why quarter it looks like half the moon is lit up? That is true but even at full moon we are only seeing the half of the moon facing us so when that is half gone it is about one quarter of the moon surface. As the last of the sun's light leaves the extreme left side of the moon we move to new moon, about 12 or 13 days. The moon cycles through its phases on a 28 day cycle.

And new moon on April 17, this is often a fun challenge trying to be the first to spot this almost invisible sliver of barely lit moon. Just like standing in a Rocky Mountain valley watching the days first sunlight touch the top of a few mountains. The moon is close enough and well mapped for many excellent beginner courses, exploring the moon with binoculars or a small telescope. There is an excellent program offered by the Royal Astronomical society to help you enjoy Our Night Sky