

Moon Crescent Visibility

2023

The new crescent Moon can generally be seen only if it sets at least 46 minutes after the Sun has set.** Astronomers at SA Astronomical Observatory have however sighted the Moon earlier – setting at least 33 min after sunset – from Signal Hill in Cape Town, but only if the age of the Moon is at least 24hr old at sunset. The table below gives “Moonset lag” values for each month.

All Times are given in South African Standard Time.

2023			Cape Town				Johannesburg				
New Moon	Time	Date	Sunset	Moonset	Lag	Age at Sunset H:M	Sunset	Moonset	Lag	Age at Sunset H:M	
Jan 21	22:53	Jan 21	19:58	20:07	9 min	----	19:04	19:07	3 min	----	
		Jan 22	19:58	20:56	58 min	21:05	19:04	20:00	56 min	20:11	
Feb 20	09:06	Feb 20	19:34	20:04	30 min	10:28	18:47	19:15	28 min	09:41	
		Feb 21	19:32	20:37	65 min	34:26	18:46	19:53	66 min	33:41	
Mar 21	19:23	Mar 21	18:56	19:03	7 min	----	18:18	18:22	4 min	----	
		Mar 22	18:55	19:33	38 min	23:32	18:17	18:57	40 min	22:54	
		Mar 23	18:54	20:02	68 min	47:31	18:16	19:32	76 min	46:53	
Apr 20	06:12	Apr 20	18:17	18:30	13 min	12:05	17:47	18:02	15 min	11:35	
		Apr 21	18:16	19:04	48 min	36:04	17:47	18:40	53 min	35:35	
May 19	17:53	May 19	17:51	17:37	----	----	17:28	17:15	----	----	
		May 20	17:50	18:17	27 min	23:57	17:27	17:59	32 min	23:34	
		May 21	17:50	19:03	73 min	47:57	17:27	18:47	80 min	47:34	
Jun 18	06:37	Jun 18	17:44	17:47	3 min	11:07	17:24	17:31	7 min	10:47	
		Jun 19	17:44	18:42	58 min	35:07	17:24	18:26	62 min	34:47	
Jul 17	20:32	Jul 17	17:56	17:32	---	----	17:34	17:15	----	----	
		Jul 18	17:57	18:31	34 min	21:25	17:35	18:11	36 min	21:03	
		Jul 19	17:58	19:30	91 min	45:27	17:35	19:06	91 min	45:03	
Aug 16	11:38	Aug 16	18:17	18:21	4 min	06:39	17:49	17:55	6 min	06:11	
		Aug 17	18:18	19:18	60 min	30:40	17:49	18:48	59 min	30:11	
Sep 15	03:40	Sep 15	18:37	19:05	28 min	14:57	18:01	18:27	26 min	14:21	
		Sep 16	18:38	20:01	83 min	38:58	18:01	19:18	77 min	38:21	
Oct 14	19:55	Oct 14	18:59	18:51	----	----	18:14	18:06	----	----	
			18:59	19:51	52 min	23:04	18:14	19:01	47 min	22:19	
Nov 13	11:27	Nov 13	19:25	19:46	21 min	07:58	18:33	18:49	16 min	07:06	
		Nov 14	19:26	20:53	87 min	31:59	18:34	19:52	78 min	31:07	
Dec 13	01:32	Dec 13	19:52	20:50	58 min	18:20	18:55	19:45	50 min	17:23	
		Dec 14	19:52	21:49	117 min	42:20	18:55	20:46	111 min	41:23	

Produced by the Wits Planetarium, using MICA.

** For S African latitudes, and according to Mohammad Ilyas, writing in Quarterly Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society v35 p425 (1994).