

October 2017 Highlight

A Morning Lunar Occultation of Regulus on Sunday, October 15th

- ★ The waning crescent Moon will occult (pass in front of) the bright, 1st magnitude star **Regulus** during the **early morning hours of Sunday, October 15th**.
- ★ Regulus (the “**heart of the Lion**” in the constellation **Leo**) is the closest bright star to the **ecliptic** – the apparent path through which the Sun, Moon and planets travel in our sky – and is frequently occulted by the Moon. It shines at magnitude +1.36.
- ★ With binoculars or a small telescope, watch this star disappear from view, behind the illuminated limb of the Moon, about **5:29 a.m. EST**. It will reappear on the other side of the Moon, from the dark limb, about **6:35 a.m. EST** – a **66** minute stellar blackout.
- ★ **The above times are valid for Asheville, NC and may differ slightly, depending on your location.**

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- ★ Look to the E-SE to observe this event, in the direction of the constellation Leo. The crescent Moon will be 19% illuminated and 24° above the horizon as the occultation begins.
- ★ The times below are approximate for Asheville, NC using EST.
- ★ Regulus, the Alpha star in the constellation Leo, lies 78 light years behind the Moon!

