



13–16 December 2017 – the Planets

Conjunction of the Crescent Moon with Jupiter and Mars

On the mornings of Wednesday, December 13th through Saturday the 16th, about 1 hour before sunrise, the waning crescent moon will join faint Mars and a much brighter Jupiter in the southeast near *Alpha Librae*, a double star in Libra called Zubenelgenubi.

While Mars shines at magnitude 1.7, Jupiter glows nearly 23 times brighter at magnitude -1.7 .

All three objects are situated in the same area of sky but lie at very different distances. During this time the Moon is only 249 thousand miles away, while Mars sits at 196 million miles. Jupiter is almost three times this distance at 573 million miles!

