

Conjunction of the Moon with Mars and Venus

During evening twilight on the nights of **August 9-11**, the waxing crescent Moon will appear to glide by the planets Mars and Venus in the zodiac constellation Leo – the Lion.

On August 9th the Moon will be only 2.4% illuminated, just over one day past the new Moon phase, and it will be difficult to view. Take up the challenge with an unobstructed view low to the western horizon and a pair of binoculars. You should catch a very narrow crescent Moon and a very faint Mars that is some 240 million miles away and shining at a magnitude of 1.8.

On these nights Venus is beaming some 200 times brighter than Mars, and it is relatively close, at a distance of only 116 million miles. Venus is the most reflective planet in our solar system! While gazing at brilliant Venus, ponder that its reflected sunlight left it some 10 minutes earlier.

