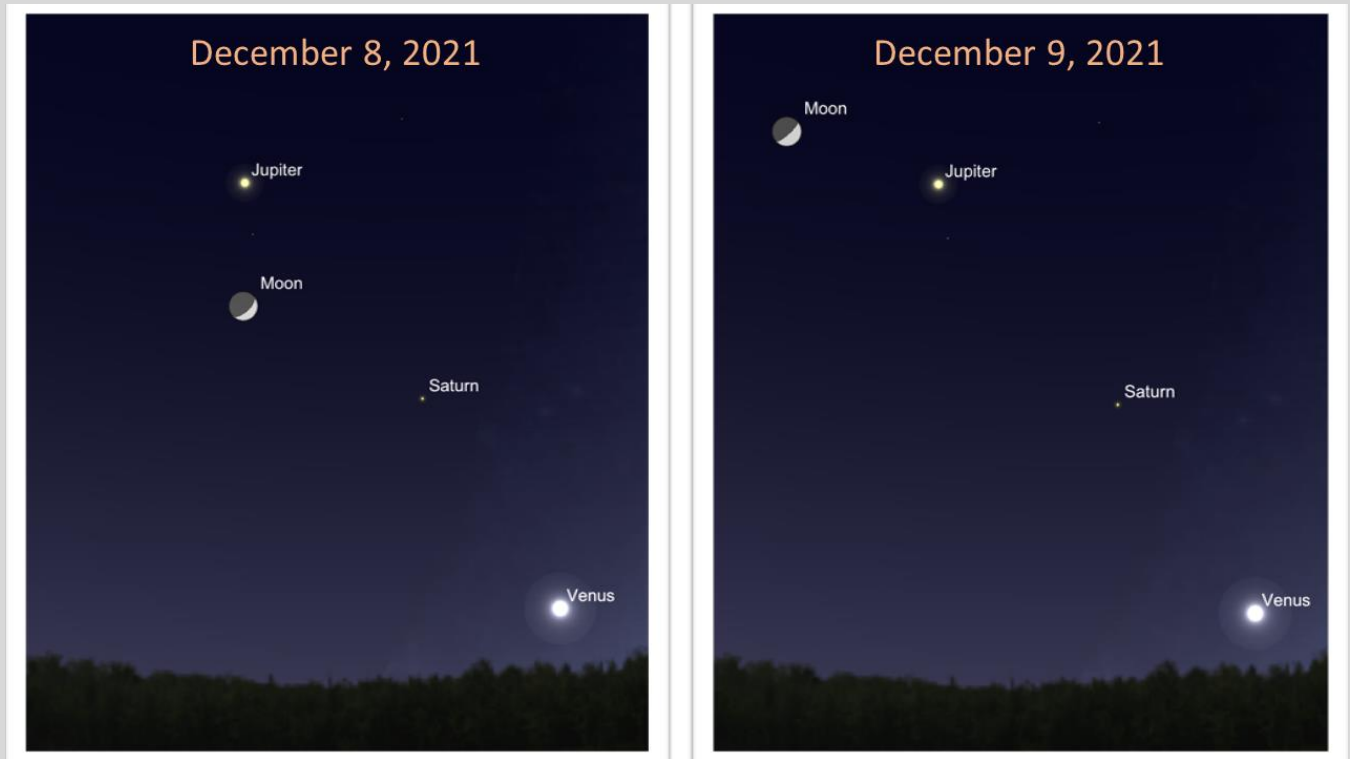


# The Moon Joins Jupiter as Darkness Arrives

- a December 2021 Sky Event from the [Astronomy Club of Asheville](#)

On the nights of **December 8 & 9**, look for a wonderful planetary alignment - as the Moon, moving west to east along the ecliptic, passes Jupiter.



*The waxing crescent **Long Night Moon** moves along the ecliptic through the constellation Capricornus as it passes Jupiter on December 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>. The illustrations show the view, looking S-SW, around 7:00 p.m. local time from Asheville, NC.*

Two other bright planets are also easily visible to the unaided eye on these nights, with Venus and Jupiter outshining Saturn. Using a small telescope will reveal much more planetary detail, like:

- the 21% illuminated, crescent-shaped and cloud-covered disk of Venus,
- Jupiter's "banded" cloud tops and its 4 Galilean moons,
- and Saturn's ring system and a few of its larger moons, including Titan.

For those of you who want a challenge with your telescope, seek out the faint, light blue disks of the planets Uranus and Neptune, located in the constellations Aries (in the SE) and Aquarius (in the S), respectively.

For more information about locating Uranus and Neptune, [follow this link.](#)

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