

The Long Night Moon Passes by Jupiter

As it moves about 13° eastward along the ecliptic each day, the waxing gibbous Long Night Moon glides past the gas giant planet Jupiter on the **nights of Dec. 21 & 22**. The Moon leaves the zodiac constellation Pisces on the 21st to join Jupiter in the zodiac constellation Aries on the 22nd. This year the Long Night Moon is “full” on the night of December 26th.

On these nights, Jupiter is located some 405 million miles behind the Moon. The planet’s striking cloud top bands and 4 bright Galilean moons are easy objects to observe with a small telescope. With steady, clear skies, Jupiter’s Great Red Spot (GRS), if it is rotated toward Earth at the time, may also be observed.

Illustration created with SkySafari
and PowerPoint software

