

The Long Night Moon Glides Past Saturn

The waxing crescent Long Night Moon creates a wonderful juxtaposition with the gas giant planet Saturn in the zodiac constellation Aquarius on the night of **December 17th**. The two solar system objects will appear less than 3° apart that night. This year the Long Night Moon is “full” on December 26th.

As you observe this night sky spectacle, try to visualize a third dimension. The planet Saturn is 84 light minutes behind the Moon, and the bright southern hemisphere star Fomalhaut (well below the Moon) is 25 light years behind Saturn.

Illustration courtesy of [Sky & Telescope](#)

