

The Moon Visits Jupiter & the Pleiades

On the evenings of **April 9-11**, look to the west along the ecliptic, in the direction of the zodiac constellation Taurus, to watch an apparent close encounter of the waxing crescent Moon with the planet Jupiter and the Pleiades star cluster. On these nights, the gas giant Jupiter is some 546 million miles (49 light minutes) behind the Moon, while the Pleiades (aka the “seven sisters”) are some 440 light years behind Jupiter. Even using a small telescope, the striped cloud tops of Jupiter and its 4 large Galilean moons always make a dazzling impression

The Pleiades is one of the closest open star clusters to our solar system, and their very “young” stars look most spectacular in a pair of binoculars. Find out more about the Pleiades [here](#).

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