

The Moon Sails by Jupiter in Gemini

On the nights of **March 25-26**, look high overhead to the south along the ecliptic, in the direction of the zodiac constellation Gemini, the Twins, to watch the waxing gibbous Moon appear to sail by the bright planet Jupiter. On these nights, the gas giant Jupiter is some 463 million miles (41 light minutes) behind the Moon. Even using a small telescope, the striped cloud tops of Jupiter and its 4 large Galilean moons always make a dazzling impression.

Notice the two bright stars above Jupiter to the east. These are the “twin” stars of Gemini – Pollux & Castor. Can you detect their differences in color and brightness?

