

A Waxing Crescent Moon Joins a Waning Gibbous Venus

At dusk on the nights of **November 3-5**, the waxing crescent Beaver Moon sails through the zodiac constellations Scorpius and Sagittarius. On **November 4th**, the Moon appears to make a stop at brilliant Venus – the brightest planet as seen from Earth.

Like the Moon, the planet Venus goes through phases as seen from Earth. While the Moon is seen as a waxing crescent phase on these early November evenings, Venus appears as a waning 75% illuminated gibbous disk. Enhance your experience viewing this spectacular solar system juxtaposition by using binoculars or a small telescope at low power to observe both Venus and the Moon.

The Moon orbits eastward, about 13° along the “ecliptic” (the path across the sky that the Sun, Moon, and planets appear to follow), from one day to the next, or about $\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ per hour. On these cool autumn evenings, try following this daily lunar movement across the sky.



Illustration courtesy of [SKY & TELESCOPE](#)