

Astronomy Club of Asheville

October 2025 Highlight

Lunar Occultation of the Pleiades

On the night of October 9/10, the waning gibbous Harvest Moon will occult the Pleiades star cluster – passing in front of and hiding many of its brighter stars.

Here in the Asheville area, this occultation will occur relatively high off the eastern horizon in the constellation Taurus – the Bull. The 87% illuminated Moon will hide many of the stars in the cluster. The occultation will begin about 11:00 p.m. on October 9th and continue for 2 hours until about 1:00 a.m. on October 10th. Maximum occultation occurs around 12:20 a.m. on October 10th.

The Moon orbits eastward, about 13° along the “ecliptic” (the path across the sky that the Sun, Moon, and the planets appear to follow), from one day to the next, or 1/2° per hour. Because the Pleiades is located along that ecliptic path, it is often involved with lunar conjunctions and occultations.

The Pleiades star cluster – aka the “Seven Sisters” – is located some 440 light years behind the Moon.

This wonderful occultation is best observed using binoculars or a small telescope. Enjoy the view!



The view from Asheville, NC, around
12:20 a.m. on October 10th