

The Cold Moon Joins Saturn in the Constellation Pisces

On the nights of **November 28 & 29**, a waxing-gibbous Cold Moon “visits” the gas giant planet Saturn in the constellation Pisces, the Fishes. This year the Cold Moon is “full” on the night of December 4th.

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 ½° per hour. This shift means Earth needs to rotate a little longer to bring the Moon into view, which is why moonrise is about 50 minutes later each day. On these cool autumn evenings, try following this daily lunar movement across the sky.

Saturn, our planetary “lord of the rings”, is located some 854 million miles (76 light minutes) behind the Moon, and it’s in excellent position for telescopic observation.

