

Astronomy Club of Asheville

June 2026 Highlight

A Waxing Crescent Moon Hides the Planet Venus

From the Asheville region on the afternoon of Wednesday, **June 17th**, the waxing crescent Moon will occult (pass in front of) Earth's neighboring planet Venus.

Here in the Asheville area, this occultation will begin high in the southwest in the direction of the zodiac constellation Cancer. Use binoculars or a small telescope to help you observe Venus as it disappears and reappears from behind the 11% illuminated crescent Moon. Yes, with optical aid, you can observe this crescent Moon and the bright planet Venus in broad daylight.



Venus' disappearance at 3:39 p.m.



Venus' reappearance at 5:07 p.m.

Approximate timings for this 88-minute Venus occultation in the Asheville, NC region:

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| 3:39 p.m. EDT (June 17) | 1 st contact and the beginning of Venus' disappearance |
| 5:07 p.m. EDT (June 17) | 2 nd contact and the beginning of Venus' reappearance |

Venus is the brightest planet as seen from Earth – primarily due to its high albedo (reflectivity). It reflects about 70% of the sunlight that reaches its cloud tops compared to only 30% for our home planet Earth.