

Image: ISS transits the moon

January 20 2017



Credit: European Space Agency

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it is the International Space Station as it flies in front of the moon as seen from ESA's space science centre near Madrid, Spain, on 14 January.

A full [moon](#), looking up at the right time and [good weather](#) are necessary to take a picture like this. Consisting of 13 superimposed images, it

clearly shows the station's main elements.

Thirteen frames were captured starting at 01:01:14 GMT, with the Station taking just half a second to cross the moon.

The outpost is the largest structure in orbit, spanning the size of a football pitch, but at 400 km altitude it still appears tiny through a telescope.

Michel Breitfellner, Manuel Castillo, Abel de Burgos and Miguel Perez Ayucar work at ESA's European Space Astronomy Centre and are members its astronomy club. They braved freezing temperatures to set up two telescopes with reflex cameras to record this sequence.

As the [station](#) could be seen only when in front of the moon, the group had to press the shutter and hope for the best. Their calculations were perfect and the result speaks for itself.

Provided by European Space Agency

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