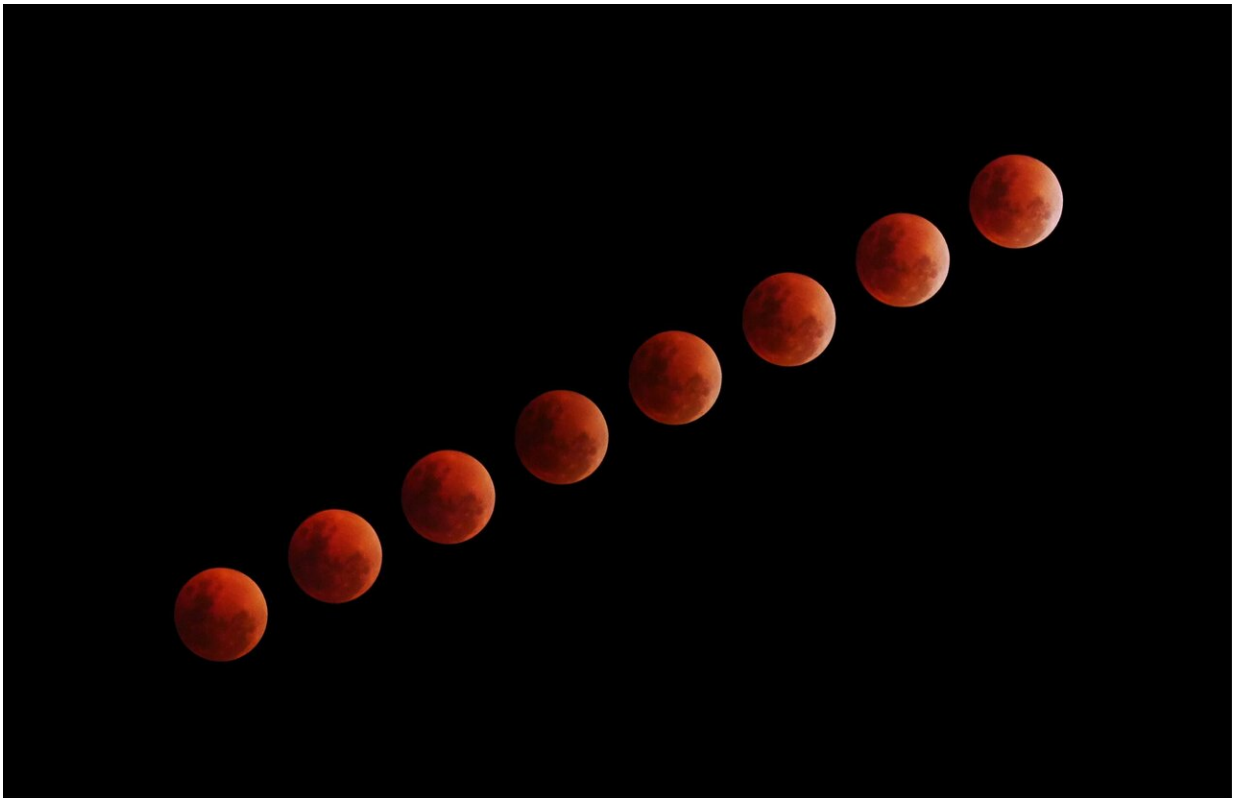


Maine museum to host large chunk of Mars rock

August 27 2021



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A Maine museum will play host to a chunk of rock it said is the largest intact Mars rock on Earth.

The Maine Mineral & Gem Museum said the specimen weighs 32

pounds (15 kilograms) and is about 10 inches (25 centimeters) at its longest point. The [museum](#) said the rock was the result of an asteroid impact on the surface of Mars that ejected material into an Earth-crossing orbit in space.

There are less than 500 pounds (227 kilograms) of Mars rock known to exist on Earth, the museum said.

The rock is known as "Taoudenni 002." The Bethel, Maine, museum said it will include the rock when it opens to the public on Sept. 1.

The museum said it is planning a reception with limited capacity on Aug. 31 to celebrate the acquisition of the [rock](#). Two scientists from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration are expected to attend, the museum said.

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