

# Rare blue supermoon brightens the night sky this week in the closest full moon of the year

August 29 2023, by Marcia Dunn

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A supermoon rises through clouds over the skyline of lower Manhattan, Aug. 1, 2023, as seen from West Orange, N.J. Stargazers are in for a double treat on Wednesday night, Aug. 30: a rare blue supermoon with Saturn peeking from behind. The cosmic curtain rises Wednesday night with the second full moon of August, the reason it's considered blue. It's dubbed a supermoon because it's closer to Earth than usual, appearing especially big and bright. Credit: AP Photo/Seth Wenig, File

Stargazers are in for a double treat this week: a rare blue supermoon with Saturn peeking from behind.

The cosmic curtain rises Wednesday night with the second full [moon](#) of the month, the reason it's considered blue. It's dubbed a supermoon because it's closer to Earth than usual, appearing especially big and bright.

This will be the closest full moon of the year, just 222,043 miles (357,344 kilometers) or so away. That's more than 100 miles (160 kilometers) closer than the [Aug. 1 supermoon](#).

As a bonus, Saturn will be visible as a bright point 5 degrees to the upper right of the moon at sunset in the east-southeastern sky, according to NASA. The ringed planet will appear to circle clockwise around the moon as the night wears on.

If you missed the month's first spectacle, better catch this one. There won't be another blue supermoon until 2037, according to Italian astronomer Gianluca Masi, founder of the [Virtual Telescope Project](#).

Clouds spoiled Masi's attempt to livestream the supermoon rising earlier this month. He's hoping for clearer skies this time so he can capture the blue supermoon shining above St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican.



A supermoon rises over the West End Tower at Vanderbilt University, Aug. 1, 2023, in Nashville, Tenn. Stargazers are in for a double treat on Wednesday night, Aug. 30: a rare blue supermoon with Saturn peeking from behind. The cosmic curtain rises Wednesday night with the second full moon of August, the reason it's considered blue. It's dubbed a supermoon because it's closer to Earth than usual, appearing especially big and bright. Credit: AP Photo/George Walker IV, File



A supermoon rises beyond a beer sign at Kauffman Stadium during a baseball game between the Kansas City Royals and the New York Mets, Aug. 1, 2023, in Kansas City, Mo. Stargazers are in for a double treat on Wednesday night, Aug. 30: a rare blue supermoon with Saturn peeking from behind. The cosmic curtain rises Wednesday night with the second full moon of August, the reason it's considered blue. It's dubbed a supermoon because it's closer to Earth than usual, appearing especially big and bright. Credit: AP Photo/Charlie Riedel, File

Weather permitting, observers don't need binoculars or telescopes—"just their own eyes." said Masi.

"I'm always excited to admire the beauty of the night sky," he said, especially when it features a blue supermoon.

The first supermoon of 2023 was in July. The fourth and last will be in September.

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