





June Skies over the Pinnacles

June 2021

June's four principal phases of the moon

June 2	Last Quarter	
June 10	New Moon	
June 18	First Quarter	
June 24	Full Moon	

What can you see on the Moon?

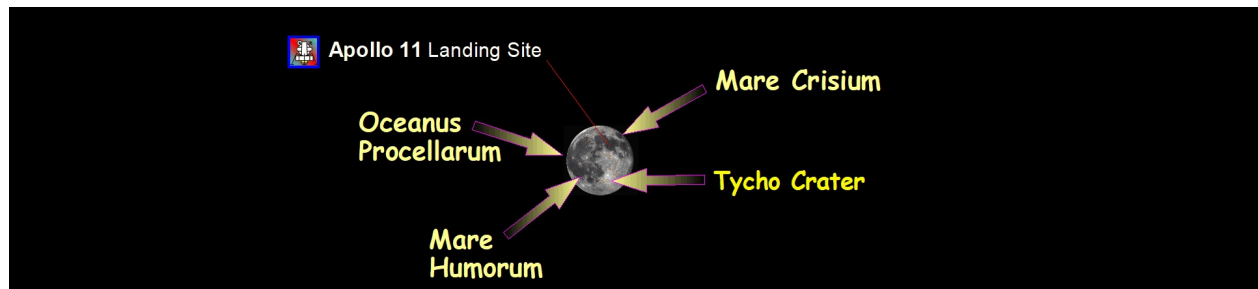
We've all looked at the Moon. Maybe we're on a long car trip and it suddenly appears from behind a hill, keeping pace with you. If you're a passenger, you might stare at it for awhile and think about something else. What if you really looked at the Moon: what would you notice? Well, you might notice that it isn't a full moon, only a sliver of light against the evening or morning sky. If the sky is dark you might think you are seeing more than just the bright sliver. Can it be that you can see a whole sphere or are your eyes playing tricks on you? Nope. You are seeing the entire face of the Moon. The dim part that seems to round out this little world is being lit by light reflecting off the day side of the Earth! The thing you are *really* seeing is called **earthshine**.

Here's a picture I took of the Moon in May of 2011.
I overexposed the bright part of the Moon in order
to capture **earthshine**.



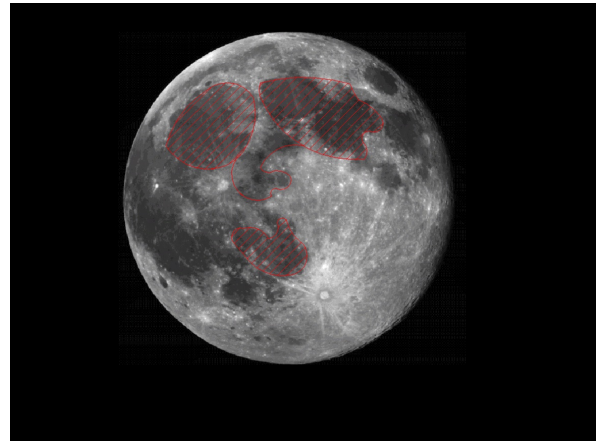
Here's another picture I took the same night that shows a feature on the moon that you don't need a telescope or binoculars to see. See that smallish oval area that looks a little darker than the area around it? That's Mare Crisium. It's always seen on what we'd call the western edge of the moon.

There's lots to see on the Moon even if you don't use a telescope or binoculars.

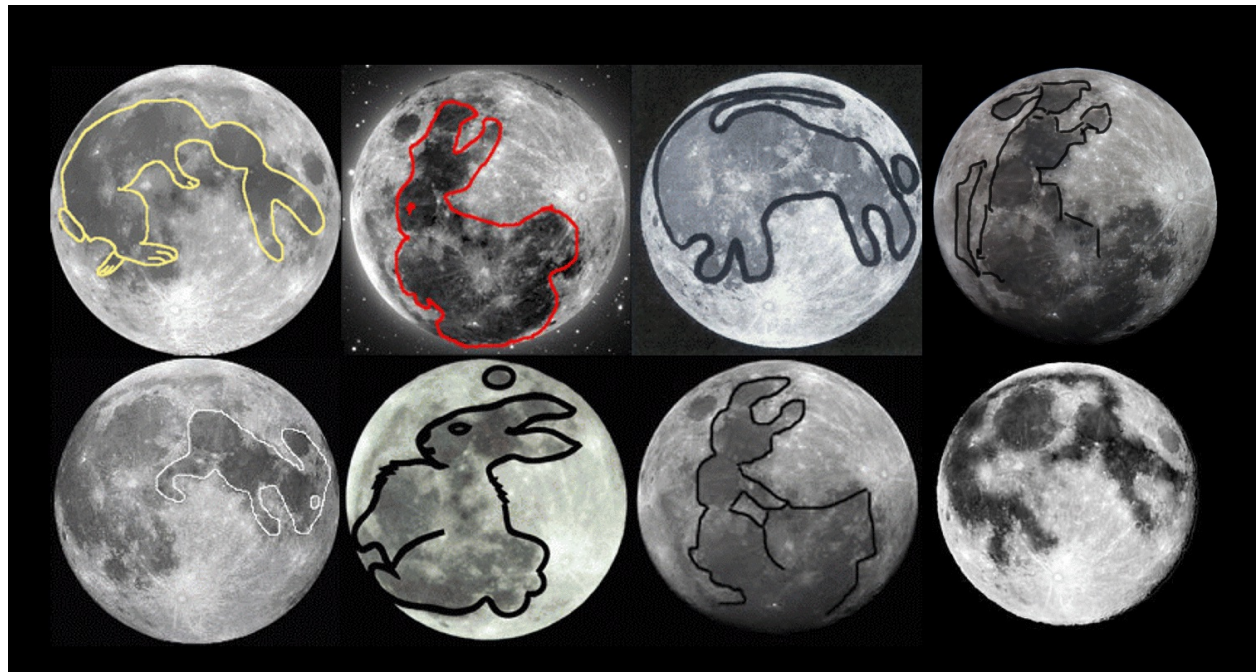


This is a naked-eye view of the Moon. Around the last week of June, see how many of these features you can spot by just using your eyes!

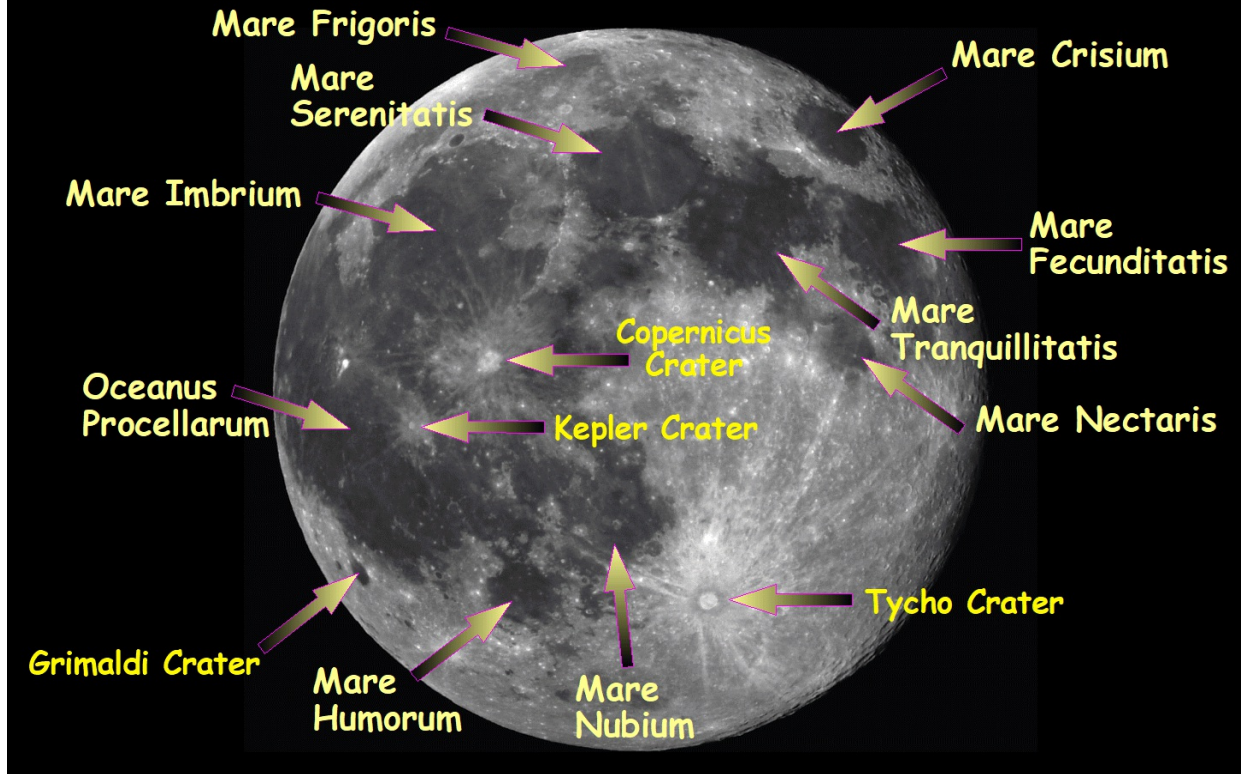
We've all heard of the Man on the Moon. This is known as a **Pareidolia**. This is a word that describes something we think we see but isn't really there.



Can you see these other figures that seem to be on the moon?
If you have a telescope or binoculars try using this guide to find as many of these features as you can.



Some Prominent Lunar Features



Of course, some of our best times with the Moon is just watching it rise!

Join us at the Forestry Outreach Center on June 19 for our first in-person star-gaze in over a year. We'll be using telescopes to look at the Moon and hopefully Mars and Venus before they set! We'll also get to know some of the bright constellations of the early summer. See you then!

Attractions in June

June 3 Look to the west at dusk to catch a glimpse of the thin crescent Moon appearing just a finger or so away from the planet Mars. Don't forget to look for lunar **earthshine**!

June 19 **Star Gaze!** The gibbous Moon appears just a couple of fingers away from the beautiful bright blue star named Spica.



June 20 Happy Summer Solstice! Now the duration of daylight gradually shortens until the Winter Solstice on December 21. (Yay, more time to see the night sky!)

June 23 Binocular Alert! Find orange Mars low in the southwestern sky as it appears right in front of the Beehive star cluster in the constellation Cancer.

June 30 Get up early and catch the Moon between the planets Jupiter and Saturn. Binoculars will make this trio even more beautiful.

