Full Moon November 2026: when, where to look, and what to notice

Peabody blog · Science · updated 2026-10-30

The Moon is full on Tuesday 24 November 2026. When it rises, where to look, why it looks huge near the ground, and the daytime Moon before it.

The Moon is full on Tuesday 24 November 2026, at 7:54 am Mountain Time (9:54 am Eastern). The evenings of the 23rd and the 24th both show a Moon that looks completely full. It rises in the east around sunset, between about 4 and 5:30 pm across the country, and is up all night. Peabody's event page has a countdown; Sky Tonight gives your own moonrise from a ZIP.

Where and when

Look east just as the Sun goes down. On the 23rd the Moon is already up before sunset, low in the east; on the 24th it comes up close to sunset. By bedtime it is well up in the east-south-east, and around midnight it is high in the south.

Why it looks so big at first

A full Moon near the horizon looks enormous, and orange. The orange is real: its light passes through more air, which scatters the blue. The size is not. Measured, the Moon is the same size near the ground as high up. Hold your arm out and cover it with your thumbnail at moonrise, then again at bedtime: the thumbnail covers it both times. Nobody is completely sure why our brains enlarge it.

The daytime Moon before it

In the week before full, the Moon is up in the afternoon. On about 17 November, first quarter, a half-lit Moon is high in the south-east in daylight, an easy find on the walk home from school.

Three nights, three Moons

The Moon rises later each night, by roughly 50 minutes to an hour, so the three evenings around full look different even though the Moon looks round on all of them. From our sky table:

- Monday 23 November: 99% lit, and up before the Sun goes down: it rises about an hour before sunset, low in the east.
- Tuesday 24 November, full: it comes up close to sunset.
- Wednesday 25 November: 97% lit, rising about 45 minutes to an hour after sunset.

Thanksgiving, Thursday 26 November, still has a bright Moon, about 90% lit, but it rises about two hours after sunset, between about 6 and 7:30 pm depending on where you live. Look low in the east, a little to the north, after dinner.

The morning after

A full Moon sets around sunrise. On the morning of Wednesday 25 November it is still up, low in the west, until about 8 to 8:30 am. A child on the way to school can see the full Moon going down on one side of the sky while the day starts on the other.

What to say when a child asks why it's round

Something like: "The Sun shines on the Moon like a flashlight on a ball. Tonight Earth is in the middle, so we see the whole lit side." That is also why a full Moon rises as the Sun sets: it is on the far side of Earth from the Sun. For an older child, add that the Moon goes around Earth about once a month, and the lamp-and-orange model in our Moon phases post shows the rest of the shapes.

Three questions grown-ups ask

Is November's full Moon a supermoon? It's close, about 360,750 km away, but December's on the 23rd is closer, about 356,700 km, the closest of the year.

Can we see craters? A full Moon is actually the worst time: the Sun is straight on and there are no shadows. The edge between light and dark at first or last quarter shows craters best, especially with binoculars.

Is it safe to look at the full Moon? Yes. It's only the Sun that is dangerous to look at.

Peabody (peabody.kids) is free through the end of 2026, with no ads and no sign-up, and nothing your child taps on the space pages is sent anywhere. The Moon calendar for November draws every night's shape, and when you come back inside, the library has stories at your child's reading level.

Sources

- The phase instant, rise and set times, how much of the Moon is lit, and distances from Peabody's sky table, worked out with astronomy-engine (MIT license); times are for the middle of each 5° area.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/full-moon-november-2026