

A rare "Super Blue Moon" Eclipse will be blood red

2018 starts off with a Lunar eclipse on the last day of the month but it gets better.

You may have heard the old saying "Once in a Blue Moon" but how about "Twice in a Blue Moon"?

Yup, we have two of them with a bonus happening this year. The 1st will be at dawn Wednesday Jan. 31st and next Saturday, March 31. While the Moon won't physically turn blue, the expression means in that month it has 2 full Moons and the second one is labeled this because it's considered rare. The bonus is the Jan. 31 one is also a total lunar eclipse turning blood red peaking at 6:27 a.m. You'll catch some of the red against the blue sky as it sets, which makes it even more unique. The 19-year Metonic cycle will repeat itself on January 31st, 2037 with a carbon copy of a blue Moon turned eclipse red at the same time if you can believe that. Capturing a picture of the Lunar eclipse against a blue day sky is not only spectacular which will make your friends envious, but it only happens "Once in a Blue Moon"! Sky watch for the next month:

1. Five Planets, Sun and Morning Moon: On Jan. 9 after sunrise you can see these from SE to SW at a 45-degree angle.
2. Mars & Jupiter near conjunction: On Jan. 7 look in the SEE after 4 a.m. until sunrise for the King and Red planet duel rise.
3. Mercury & Saturn near conjunction: Jan. 13 look in the SE after 07:15 a.m until sunrise as the Waning Crescent Moon. pulls these up.
4. Quadrantid Meteor Shower: Peaks Jan. 3 after dusk going on about a week. Best viewing



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the Bootes constellation (NEE) with quarter Moon light blockage. Unfortunately, the closest and largest full moon of the year nearly coincides with the peak blocking much of it out.

Public Events for the next month:
Monthly Open House at Calgary's Rothney Observatory near Priddis- Check out our first stargazing event for the year with a one-time, special, marathon event for 2018 celebrating the RASC Canada's 150th anniversary on Jan. 27, 15- 23 p.m.

There will be an array of scopes operated by University of Calgary astronomers and members of the RASC Calgary. You will have the

opportunity to look through the telescopes, indoor presentation and astronomers will be on hand to answer questions. The entrance fee \$30 per car. Contact Jennifer Howse at jhowse@phas.ucalgary.ca, (403) 931-2366. Their website www.ucalgary.ca/rao/is updated. Happy New Year and the best for 2018 and beyond!

Neel Roberts is a member of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC)-the nation's leading astronomy club founded in 1849 with over 5,000 members and 29 centers across Canada. Neel welcomes your questions and comments at 403-560-6574, Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com. The members meet once a month on weekends at Calgary's Rothney Observatory near Priddis and you can check out times at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/rao/calendar>. Like them at Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/272037680377/, Twitter <https://twitter.com/CalgaryRASC> & YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/user/RASCCalgary>.

Photo courtesy Neel Roberts

2018 looks to have some more picturesque scenes of the moon.

