

The night sky in March

Marc van der Sluys

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Lunar phases

The Moon near
bright stars

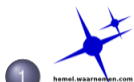
Planets

Constellations
and deepsky

ISS

Spring equinox

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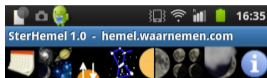
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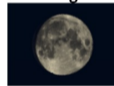
- Current events in the night sky, easily observable or with a bit more effort
- Visibility of Sun, Moon, planets, meteors, comets, deep sky, ISS, ...
- Astrocalendars, sky maps, lunar phases, sky tonight, observing weather, tables, ...
- Apps (Android/Apple), Twitter, (Facebook)
- ~ **10.000 pages in Dutch; No ads**
- **1–2 million** visitors per year



hemel.waarnemen.com astrokalender

*Tijdstippen zijn in Midden-Europese
zomertijd (MEZT)*

maandag 19 augustus



03.26: De Maan is in het punt van zijn baan dat het dichtst bij de Aarde ligt: het **perigeum**. De afstand tussen de Aarde en de Maan bedraagt 362264 km. De **schijnbare diameter** van de Maan is groter dan gemiddeld (32'59,1"), door de kleinere afstand. De Maan is op dit moment **wassend**, voor 94% verlicht en hij is vrijwel de gehele nacht zichtbaar; 's avonds in het (zuid)oosten en tegen de ochtend in het westen of

These slides on <http://hemel.waarnemen.com/lectures>



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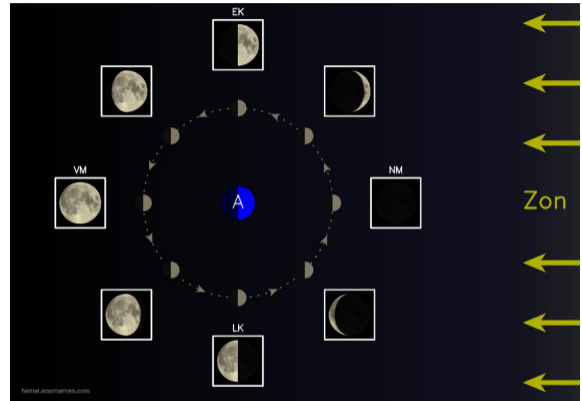
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What? Full Moon

When? Tomorrow at 9:17.

Where? Evening: east,
night: south,
morning: west.

And? Few craters are
visible at Full Moon.
Its bright light
confounds the
observation of
weaker objects.



<http://hemel.waarnemen.com/FAQ/Maan/004.html>



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Full Moon 27 February, 9:17.

Last Quarter 6 March at 2:30.

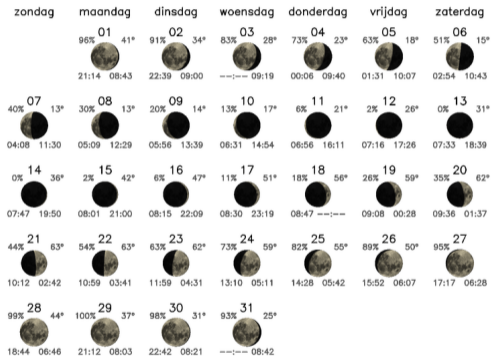
New Moon 13 March at 11:21.

First Quarter 21 March at 15:40.

● [http://hemel.waarnemen.com/
applets/maanvers.cgi](http://hemel.waarnemen.com/applets/maanvers.cgi)

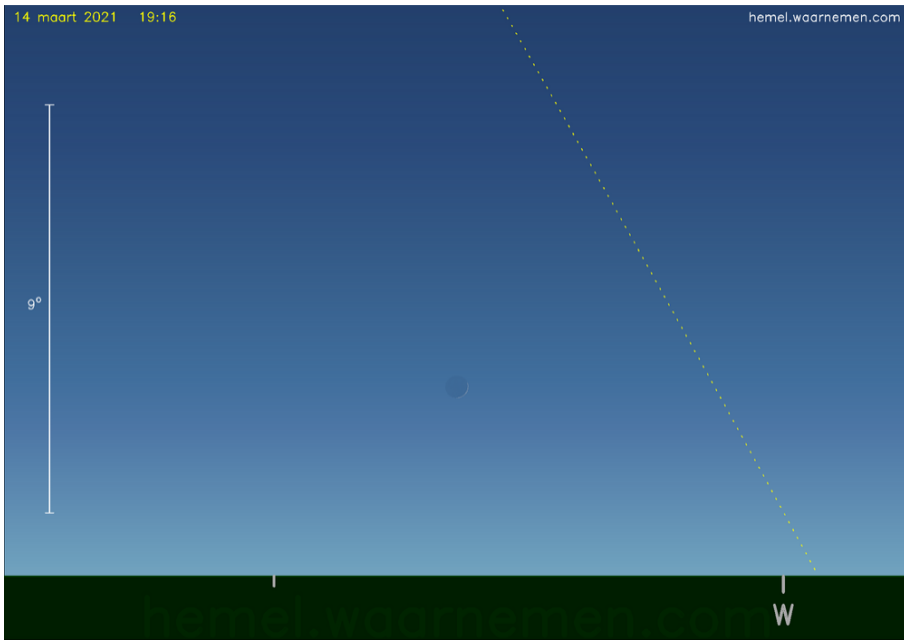
● [http://hemel.waarnemen.com/maan/
maanfasekalender.php](http://hemel.waarnemen.com/maan/maanfasekalender.php)

Maart 2021



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First view of lunar crescent on 14 March?



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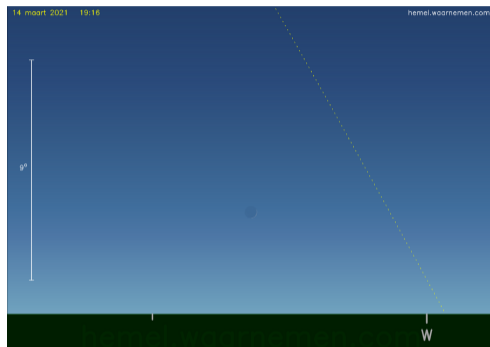
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What? First sighting of the new **Moon crescent** after New Moon.

When? Possibly on 14 March, **around 19:15**. Only 1.3 days after New Moon; the Moon is 1.9% illuminated.

Where? At 4° above the **western** horizon, in the constellation of **Cetus**.

And? The Sun is 11° lower than the Moon. The Moon sets at 19:50, 1.1 hours after the Sun. The distance between Sun and Moon is 16° .



<http://hemel.waarnemen.com/astrokal/>

The Moon near Antares, in Scorpio, on March 5 at 6:45



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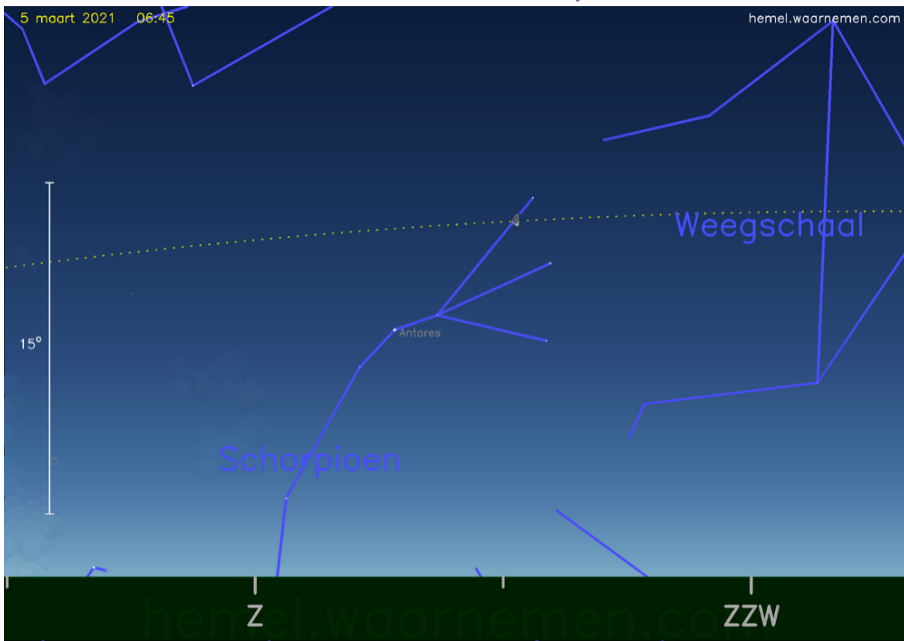
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The Moon near Pollux, in Gemini, on March 24 at 19:30



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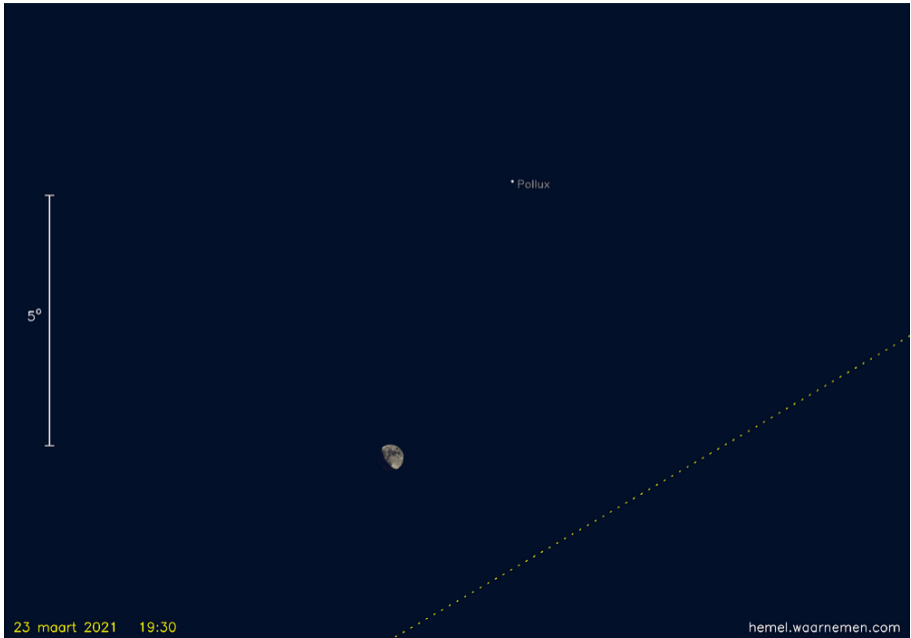
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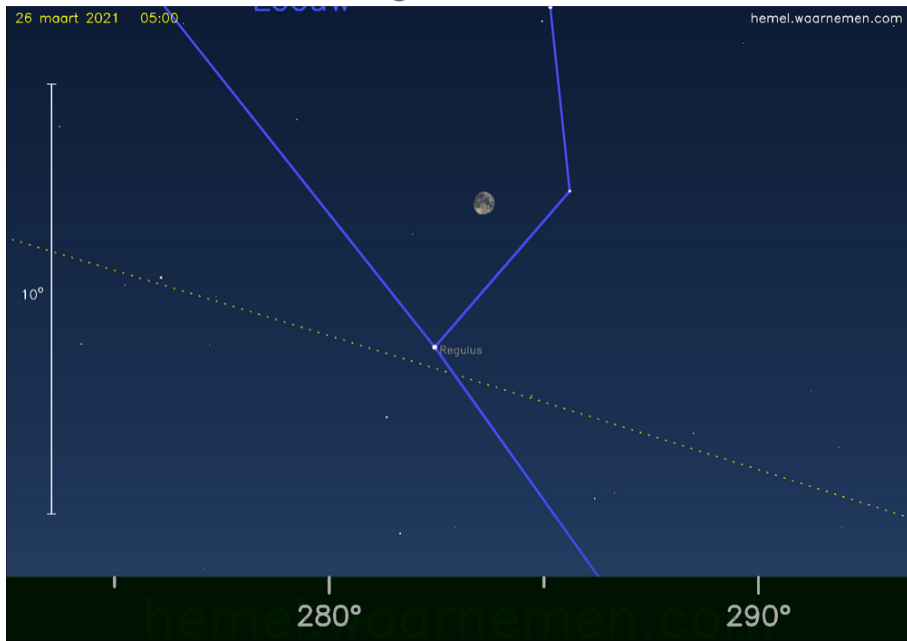
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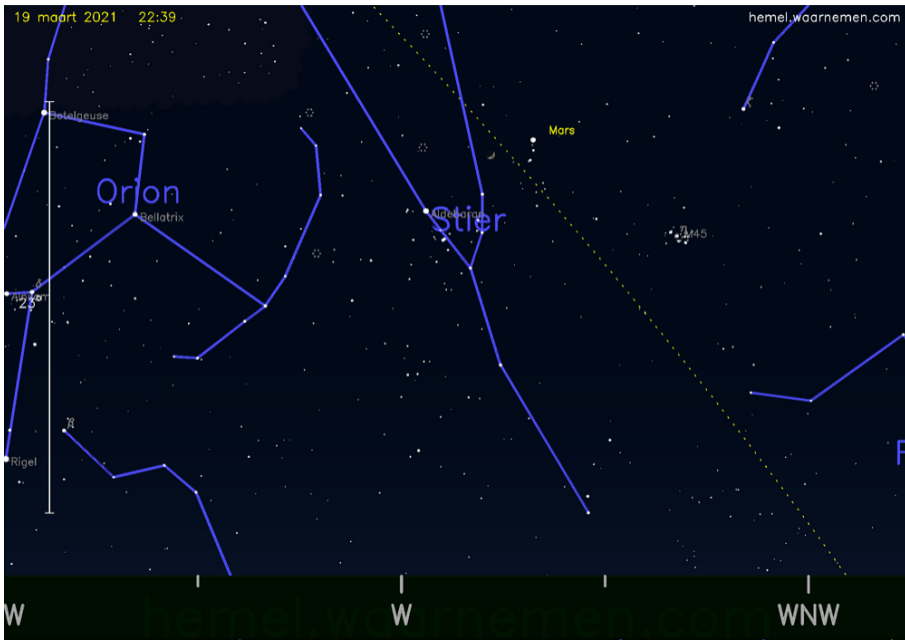
23 maart 2021 19:30

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The Moon near Regulus, in Leo, on March 26 at 5:00



The Moon near Mars and the Pleiades



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What? The **Moon** is near **Mars** and the **Pleiades**.

When? March 19, around 22:00.

Where? In the constellation of **Taurus**, in the **western sky**.

And? Mars is called the **Red Planet**, and with the naked eye you can see why. The Pleiades are a young **star cluster** at a distance of about 445 light years.

Mars is near the Pleiades on March 3rd/4th.

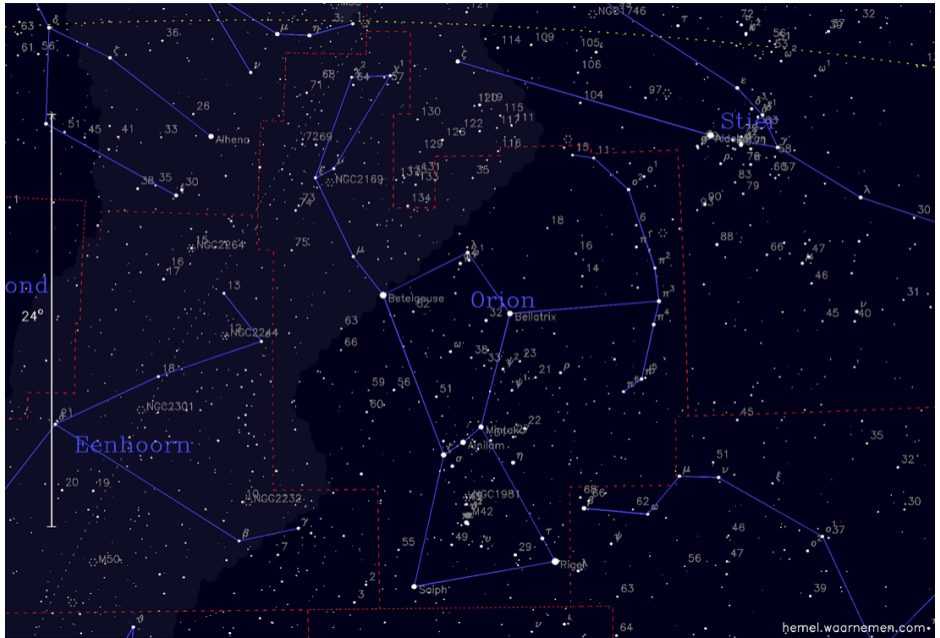


Image: DSS

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- What?** The constellation of **Orion** is a typical winter constellation, best seen in December/January.
- When?** Currently in the evenings.
- Where?** In the southern sky.
- And?** Easy to recognise, with the **red giant** Betelgeuse in the left shoulder and the three bright blue **young stars** in Orion's belt. The **Orion nebula** can be seen with binoculars.



Image: HST.

ISS transits starting tomorrow



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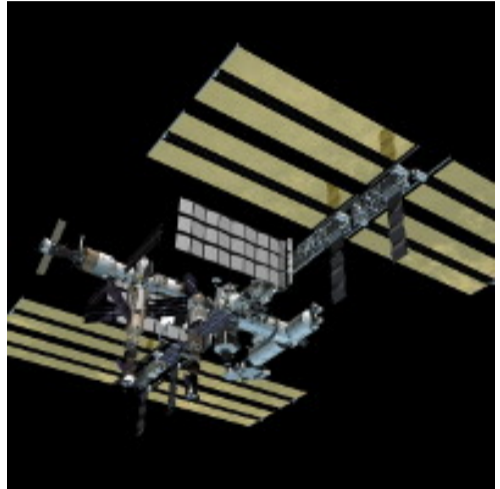
What? The space station **ISS** transits over the Netherlands.

When? **Tomorrow** between **6:27** and **6:31**.

Where? The ISS is coming from the **west-southwest** and moves high (76°) through the **south** to the **east**, where it will become too faint to be observed.

And? The ISS can be seen **once or twice** every **morning** until March 12, and every **evening** starting March 18.

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Spring equinox on March 20



Northern spring/
Southern fall

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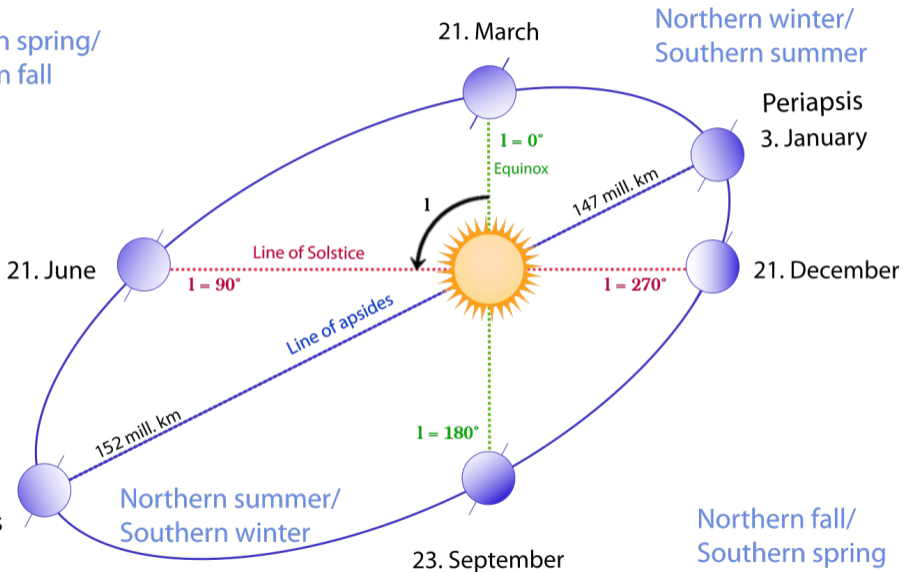
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Apoapsis
3. July



Spring equinox on March 20



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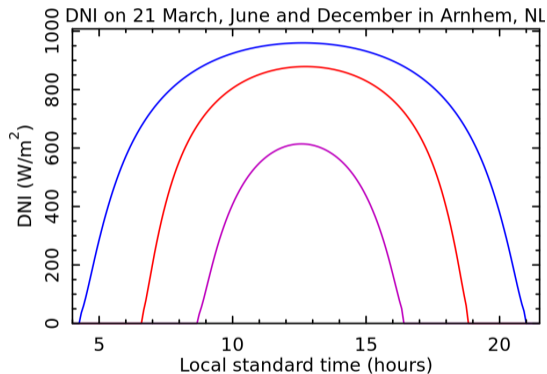
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What? **Spring equinox:** day and night are equally long and **spring** begins.

When? On **March 20** at 10:37.

Where? Day and night are (roughly) equally long everywhere, but spring begins in the northern hemisphere only.

And? The Sun rises exactly in the **east** and sets exactly in the **west**, moving towards the north in the next three months. It transits in the south at 38° altitude, moving up in the next quarter.





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Next
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What? Next public-observing night
at the Radboud University.

When? **Friday March 26, in
Dutch!**

Where? Probably online.

And? New lecture, new nightsky,
new discussion!

