

Blue Micromoon

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Blue Micromoon Latest News

Skywatchers will be treated to a rare sight this month: a Blue Moon that is also a “micromoon.”

What is a Blue Moon?

- A blue moon is the **second full moon** in a **calendar month**.
- That is **unusual** because the **period from one full moon to another** is about **29 1/2 days**.
- **So when two occur in the same month**, the **first** of these full moons is **always on the first or second day of the month**.
- **On average**, a **blue moon** occurs **once every 33 months** or full moons, **41 times per century**, or about **seven times every 19 years**.
- An **even rarer event** is when **two blue moons happen in the same calendar year**, which happens about **four times per century**.
- **Sometimes, smoke or dust** in the air can **scatter red wavelengths of light**, as a result of which the **moon may**, in certain places, **appear more blue than usual**.

- But this has **nothing to do with the name “blue” moon**, and the association of the colour with the term is unclear.

What is a Micro Moon?

- This refers to the **apparent size of the moon as viewed from Earth**.
- The **moon is not always a constant distance away from the Earth**.
- Its **orbit around the Earth is elliptical**.
- The moon is about 363,711 km away at its **closest to earth, known as perigee**. **At apogee**, or the **furthest point**, the moon is about 403,945 km away.
- If a **full moon** happens to **occur close to its closest point**, then we call that a **supermoon**. And if it's **close to its furthest point**, then we call that a **micromoon**.
- A **micromoon** appears only about **14% smaller than a supermoon** and about **6% smaller than a typical full moon**.

How Rare is a Blue Micromoon?

- **Blue moons** occur **every couple of years**, and **micromoons** occur **two or three times every year**.
- A **blue micromoon** occurs about **once every couple of decades**.
- However, they **aren't regular**, and **two such events may occur closer together or further apart**.
- **No special equipment is needed to observe** this blue micromoon, and it should be clearly visible in the absence of clouds.

Source: **LS**

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/blue-micromoon/>

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