

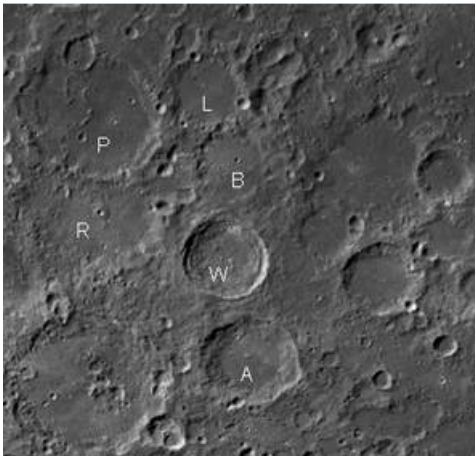
# Lunar X 2023

This is a famous "optical feature" on the Moon, which appears like the letter X when the terminator is at a suitable position. It is a fine example of how the combination of lighting and topography can combine to produce a pattern that repeats on each lunation, but only for a short time.

The X is observable for about 3 hours around the lunar First Quarter. If one knows when and where to look, the X can be observed with a modest telescope or even well-supported binoculars.

The illusion of the X is created by sunlight falling on the rims/ridges between the craters La Caille, Blanchinus, and Purbach. It appears when there is a  $-0.90^\circ$  Sun angle over the X.

There are two (**Bold print**) good X's early this year. March will be best with Gemini twins and Mars joining the view. Moon will set at start of May and November X's. Best daylight X's (underlined) will occur in April, June, and December.



*Purbach(P), La Caille(L), and Blanchinus(B) form the X. Werner(W) and Aliancis(A) make a tic-tac-toe. Regiomontanus(R) is below X.*



*SWAOG member Jeff's(WD9GVU) award winning photo of the Lunar X taken on March 22, 2010 through a Borg 76mm ED APO refractor with a 5mm Nagler.*

Start times(hhmm) for fully formed Lunar X. **Bold** are best opportunities.

<b>JAN 28 - 1851 CST</b>	<u>APR 27 - 1323 CDT</u>	JUL 25 - 0021 CDT	OCT 21 - 0040 CDT
<u>FEB 27 - 0915 CST</u>	MAY 27 - 0141 CDT	<u>AUG 23 - 1121 CDT</u>	NOV 19 - 2236 CST
<b>MAR 29 - 0012 CDT</b>	<u>JUN 25 - 1315 CDT</u>	SEP 21 - 2240 CDT	<u>DEC 19 - 1229 CST</u>

CDT - Central Daylight Time      CST - Central Standard Time

Wikipedia *Lunar X*  
 David M.F. Chapman. *The Lunar X Files:*  
 SWAOG (South West Astronomy Observers Group)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lunar\\_X](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lunar_X)  
<http://wasociety.us/Lunar-X.pdf>  
<http://www.swaog.com/>