

Summary



The visibility of the new crescent moon for March 2023 (lunation number 1240) and the potential start of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan is shown in the table below. We have included Mecca (with timings in Arabia Standard Time – AST or UT+3 hours), Rabat and Dakhla† (with timings in Western European Time – WET or UT+0 hours between Sunday March 19th and Sunday April 23rd) for reference as well as a number of cities across the United Kingdom in Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). Times of sunset (SS) and moonset (MS) are provided. Offsets from Universal Time are also given. An entry of '**:*' indicates the setting phenomenon takes place the following day. Please note that clocks go forward onto British Summer Time on Sunday March 26th at 01:00 GMT.

The instant of new Moon takes place on Tuesday March 21st 2023 at 17:23 UT. No sightings of any type are likely on March 21st. A telescopic sighting of the crescent moon is possible on Wednesday March 22nd from Southern Japan, New Guinea and north-western Australia. Optical aid may be needed to find the crescent moon from Indonesia, the Philippines and China. Sightings are possible with the naked eye under excellent conditions on the same day from India, Pakistan and parts of central and western Asia and Scandinavia. Easy sightings are possible from northern parts of Africa, Europe and most of the Americas. Naked-eye sightings are likely almost globally on Thursday March 23rd and Friday March 24th. More detailed descriptions are given below.

For those observers in the Middle East, North Africa and the United Kingdom, easy sightings of the crescent moon should be possible with the naked eye on Wednesday March 22nd, Thursday March 23rd and Friday March 24th. The most likely dates for the first naked-eye sighting of the month at a given location are **shaded** in the table below.

† – The time offset information for Dakhla, Western Sahara is subject to confirmation.

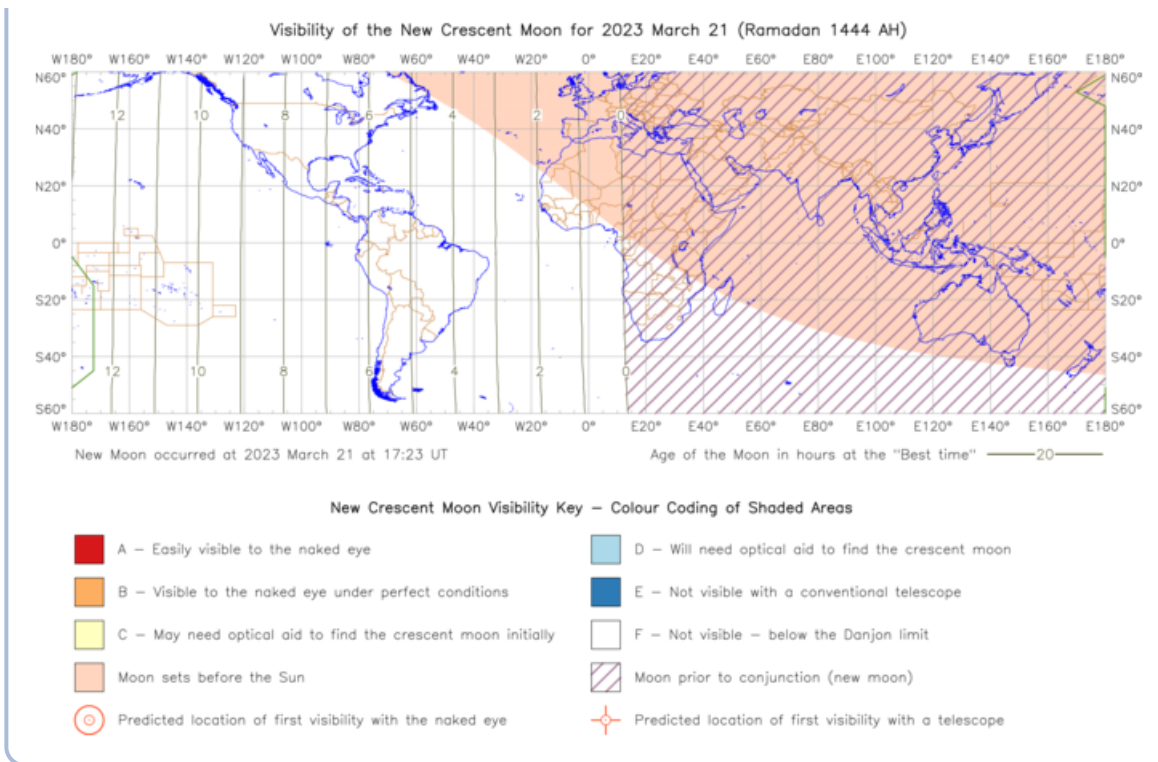
Visibility of the New Crescent Moon from selected locations

Visibility of the New Crescent Moon in March 2023				
Location	Tuesday 21 st March	Wednesday 22 nd March	Thursday 23 rd March	Friday 24 th March
Mecca Times in AST i.e. UT+3 ^{hr}	Not Visible	Easily Visible SS: 18:32 MS: 19:24	Easily Visible SS: 18:33 MS: 20:23	Easily Visible SS: 18:33 MS: 21:22
Rabat Times in WET i.e. UT+0 ^{hr}	Not Visible	Easily Visible SS: 18:40 MS: 19:44	Easily Visible SS: 18:41 MS: 20:51	Easily Visible SS: 18:42 MS: 21:58
Dakhla Times in WET i.e. UT+0 ^{hr}	Not Visible	Easily Visible SS: 19:16 MS: 20:17	Easily Visible SS: 19:16 MS: 21:17	Easily Visible SS: 19:16 MS: 22:18

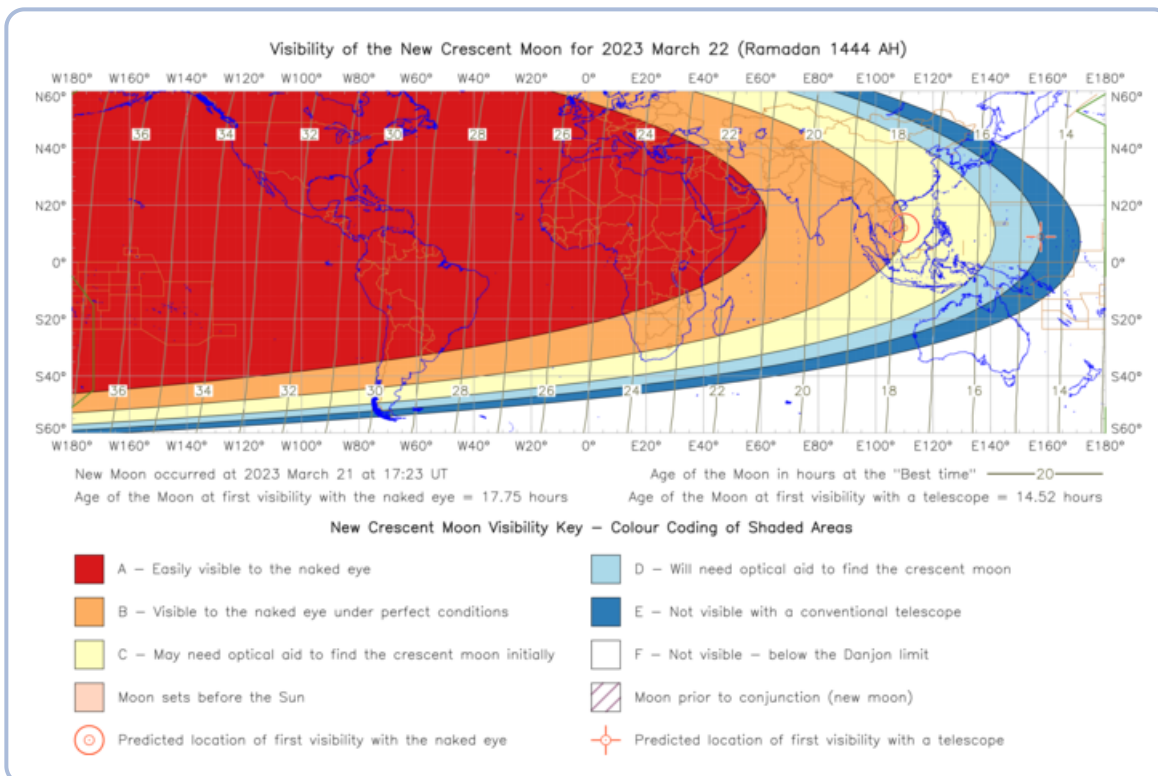
London Times in GMT i.e. UT+0 ^{hr}	Not Visible	Easily Visible SS: 18:17 MS: 19:28	Easily Visible SS: 18:18 MS: 20:52	Easily Visible SS: 18:20 MS: 22:16
Cardiff Times in GMT i.e. UT+0 ^{hr}	Not Visible	Easily Visible SS: 18:29 MS: 19:41	Easily Visible SS: 18:30 MS: 21:05	Easily Visible SS: 18:32 MS: 22:29
Birmingham Times in GMT i.e. UT+0 ^{hr}	Not Visible	Easily Visible SS: 18:24 MS: 19:36	Easily Visible SS: 18:25 MS: 21:02	Easily Visible SS: 18:27 MS: 22:27
Leicester Times in GMT i.e. UT+0 ^{hr}	Not Visible	Easily Visible SS: 18:21 MS: 19:33	Easily Visible SS: 18:22 MS: 20:59	Easily Visible SS: 18:24 MS: 22:24
Sheffield Times in GMT i.e. UT+0 ^{hr}	Not Visible	Easily Visible SS: 18:22 MS: 19:35	Easily Visible SS: 18:24 MS: 21:02	Easily Visible SS: 18:26 MS: 22:29
Manchester Times in GMT i.e. UT+0 ^{hr}	Not Visible	Easily Visible SS: 18:25 MS: 19:39	Easily Visible SS: 18:27 MS: 21:06	Easily Visible SS: 18:29 MS: 22:32
Bradford Times in GMT i.e. UT+0 ^{hr}	Not Visible	Easily Visible SS: 18:24 MS: 19:37	Easily Visible SS: 18:25 MS: 21:05	Easily Visible SS: 18:27 MS: 22:32
Leeds Times in GMT i.e. UT+0 ^{hr}	Not Visible	Easily Visible SS: 18:23 MS: 19:36	Easily Visible SS: 18:25 MS: 21:04	Easily Visible SS: 18:27 MS: 22:31
Belfast Times in GMT i.e. UT+0 ^{hr}	Not Visible	Easily Visible SS: 18:40 MS: 19:55	Easily Visible SS: 18:42 MS: 21:24	Easily Visible SS: 18:44 MS: 22:53
Newcastle Times in GMT i.e. UT+0 ^{hr}	Not Visible	Easily Visible SS: 18:23 MS: 19:37	Easily Visible SS: 18:25 MS: 21:07	Easily Visible SS: 18:27 MS: 22:36
Glasgow Times in GMT i.e. UT+0 ^{hr}	Not Visible	Easily Visible SS: 18:34 MS: 19:50	Easily Visible SS: 18:36 MS: 21:21	Easily Visible SS: 18:38 MS: 22:52

New Crescent Moon Visibility Maps for March 2023

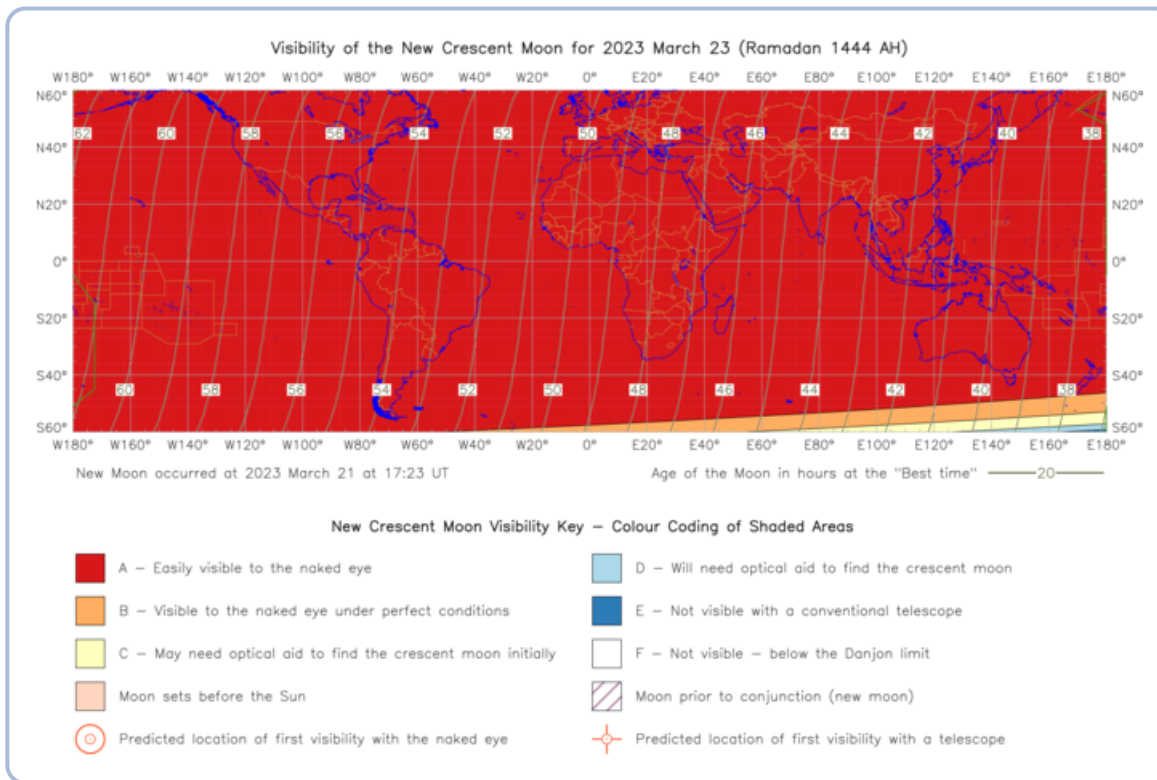
1) – Tuesday March 21st 2023: The New Moon conjunction has not yet taken place within the purple diagonal-striped region encompassing countries east of about longitude 15° east. It should also be noted that the Moon sets before the Sun in the light brown-shaded region covering northern Africa, Europe and eastwards towards the International Date Line. It is unlikely any sort of sighting of the crescent moon will be possible on March 21st, particularly from the Middle East, North Africa and the United Kingdom.



2) – Wednesday March 22nd 2023: A telescopic sighting of the crescent moon with small, conventional amateur-sized telescopes is possible from the western Pacific Ocean region including western Micronesia, southern Japan, western Melanesia including New Guinea and north-western parts of Australia. Optical aid may be needed to find the crescent moon from most of Indonesia, the Philippines, China, central Asia and southernmost parts of South Africa. Naked-eye sightings under excellent conditions are possible from Malaysia, South-East Asia, India, Pakistan, Iran, Madagascar and southern parts of Africa, parts of central and western Asia, Scandinavia and southern parts of South America. Easy naked-eye sightings are possible from northern and central Africa, the Middle East, most of Europe including most of the British Isles and the Americas except the south part of South America. Sightings of the crescent moon are likely from the Middle East, north Africa and the United Kingdom in particular.



3) – Thursday March 23rd 2023: The crescent moon should be easily visible to the naked eye on a global basis with the possible exception of southernmost parts of New Zealand. This exception may have to wait until the following day to make its sightings of the crescent moon. However, easy sightings should be possible from the Middle East, North Africa and the United Kingdom in particular.



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