Summary for the New Crescent Moon in March 2026

The visibility of the new crescent moon for March (lunation number 1277) and the potential start of the Islamic month of Shawwal (and the start of the festival of Eid al-Fitr) is shown in the table below. We have included Mecca (with timings in Arabian Standard Time – AST or UTC+3 hours), Rabat† and Dakhla† (with timings in Western European Time – WET or UTC+0 hours between Sunday February 15th and Sunday March 22nd) and New York (with timings in Eastern Daylight Time or EDT – UTC−4 hours) 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. We have also added Jakarta (with timings in Western Indonesian Time – WIB or UTC+7 hours), Karachi (with timings in Pakistan Standard Time – PKT or UTC+5 hours), Dhaka (with timings in Bangladesh Standard Time – BST or UTC+6 hours), Cairo (with timings in Eastern European Time – EET or UTC+2 hours), Istanbul (with timings in Eastern European Summer Time – EEST or UTC+3 hours), Cape Town (with timings in South African Standard Time; SAST or UTC+2 hours), Lagos (with timings in West African Time; WAT or UTC+1 hour), and Los Angeles (with timings in Pacific Daylight Time or UTC−7 hours), to the list of cities for which data have been provided. 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 29th at 01:00 GMT in the United Kingdom.

The instant of new Moon takes place on Thursday March 19th 2026 at 01:23 UT. Telescopic sightings of the crescent moon with small, conventional amateur-sized telescopes are possible on March 19th from western Turkey, parts of eastern Europe, western Russia, parts of North Africa, and northern parts of South America. Optical aid may be required to sight the crescent moon on the same day from the British Isles, western Europe, north-west Africa, and northern parts of South America. Sightings with the naked eye under excellent conditions should be possible from the northern parts of the Atlantic Ocean region (including the Azores and Madeira), northern parts of South America, north-eastern Canada, the southern half of the Caribbean region, southern parts of Central America and parts of Polynesia. Easy sightings are possible the same day from most of North America, the northern half of the Caribbean region, northern and central parts of the western Pacific Ocean region including the Hawaiian Islands. The following day, Friday March 20th, most of the globe should be able to make easy sightings of the crescent moon with the exception of New Zealand, the south-eastern part of Australia and the southernmost part of South America. These exceptions should be able to make easy sightings of the crescent moon on Saturday March 21st. More detailed descriptions are given below.

For those observers in the United States, represented by New York and Los Angeles in the list below, easy sightings should be possible on March 19th. Sightings for the remainder of the locations in the list below are likely the following day. The most likely dates for the first easy naked-eye sightings of the month at a given location are shaded pink in the table below. Sightings that may require perfect conditions are shaded khaki and those requiring optical assistance are shaded brown.

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

Visibility of the New Crescent Moon from selected locations

Visibility of the New Crescent Moon in March 2026

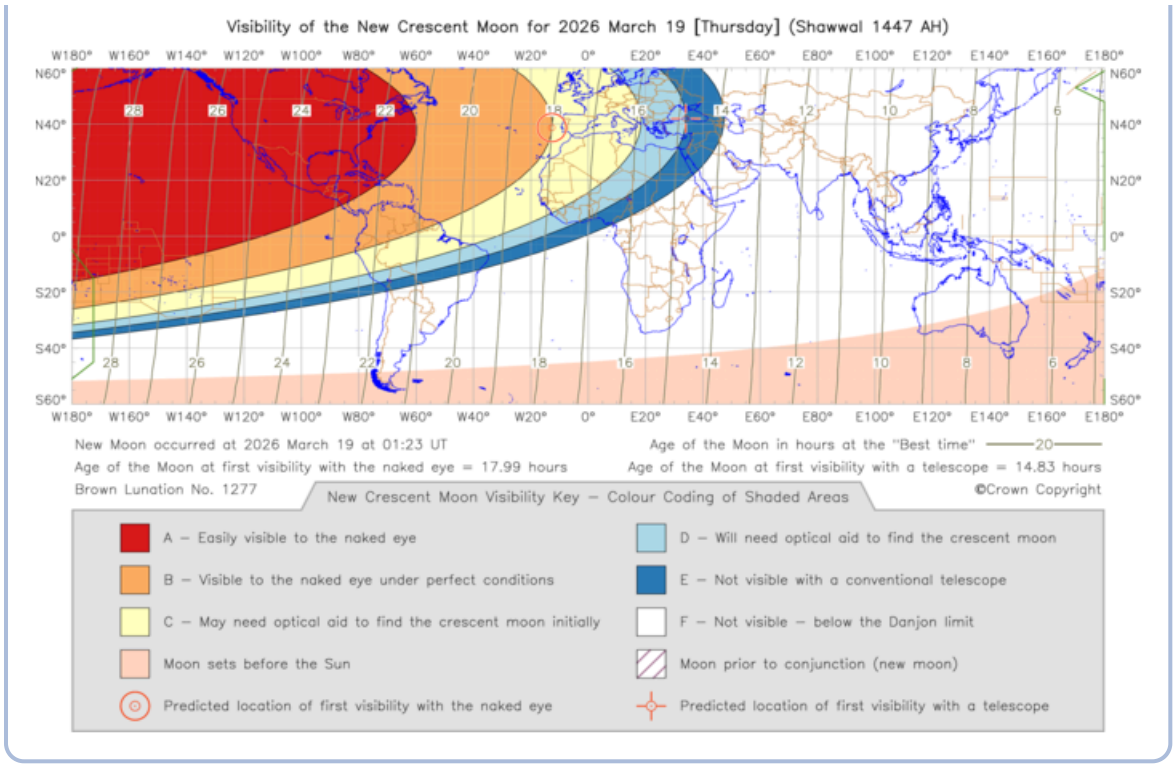
Location	Thursday 19th March	Friday 20th March	Saturday 21st March	Sunday 22nd March

Mecca Times in AST i.e. UTC+3^{hr}	Not Visible	Easily Visible SS: 18:32 MS: 20:01	Easily Visible SS: 18:32 MS: 21:05	Easily Visible SS: 18:32 MS: 22:10
Rabat Times in WET i.e. UTC+0^{hr}	May need optical aid SS: 18:38 MS: 19:22	Easily Visible SS: 18:39 MS: 20:31	Easily Visible SS: 18:40 MS: 21:43	Easily Visible SS: 18:41 MS: 22:56
Dakhla Times in WET i.e. UTC+0^{hr}	May need optical aid SS: 19:15 MS: 19:54	Easily Visible SS: 19:15 MS: 20:57	Easily Visible SS: 19:15 MS: 22:01	Easily Visible SS: 19:16 MS: 23:09
New York Times in EDT i.e. UTC-4^{hr}	Easily Visible SS: 19:07 MS: 20:09	Easily Visible SS: 19:08 MS: 21:24	Easily Visible SS: 19:09 MS: 22:42	Easily Visible SS: 19:10 MS: **:**
London Times in GMT i.e. UTC+0^{hr}	May need optical aid SS: 18:12 MS: 19:09	Easily Visible SS: 18:14 MS: 20:36	Easily Visible SS: 18:15 MS: 22:06	Easily Visible SS: 18:17 MS: 23:37
Cardiff Times in GMT i.e. UTC+0^{hr}	May need optical aid SS: 18:24 MS: 19:22	Easily Visible SS: 18:26 MS: 20:48	Easily Visible SS: 18:28 MS: 22:19	Easily Visible SS: 18:29 MS: 23:50
Birmingham Times in GMT i.e. UTC+0^{hr}	May need optical aid SS: 18:19 MS: 19:17	Easily Visible SS: 18:20 MS: 20:45	Easily Visible SS: 18:22 MS: 22:17	Easily Visible SS: 18:24 MS: 23:50
Leicester Times in GMT i.e. UTC+0^{hr}	May need optical aid SS: 18:16 MS: 19:14	Easily Visible SS: 18:17 MS: 20:42	Easily Visible SS: 18:19 MS: 22:14	Easily Visible SS: 18:21 MS: 23:48
Sheffield Times in GMT i.e. UTC+0^{hr}	May need optical aid SS: 18:17 MS: 19:17	Easily Visible SS: 18:19 MS: 20:46	Easily Visible SS: 18:21 MS: 22:19	Easily Visible SS: 18:23 MS: 23:54
Manchester Times in GMT i.e. UTC+0^{hr}	May need optical aid SS: 18:20 MS: 19:20	Easily Visible SS: 18:22 MS: 20:50	Easily Visible SS: 18:24 MS: 22:23	Easily Visible SS: 18:26 MS: 23:58
Bradford Times in GMT i.e. UTC+0^{hr}	May need optical aid SS: 18:18 MS: 19:18	Easily Visible SS: 18:20 MS: 20:49	Easily Visible SS: 18:22 MS: 22:22	Easily Visible SS: 18:24 MS: 23:58
Leeds Times in GMT i.e. UTC+0^{hr}	May need optical aid SS: 18:18 MS: 19:17	Easily Visible SS: 18:20 MS: 20:48	Easily Visible SS: 18:22 MS: 22:22	Easily Visible SS: 18:23 MS: 23:58
York Times in GMT i.e. UTC+0^{hr}	May need optical aid SS: 18:16 MS: 19:16	Easily Visible SS: 18:18 MS: 20:46	Easily Visible SS: 18:20 MS: 22:20	Easily Visible SS: 18:21 MS: 23:56
Belfast Times in GMT i.e. UTC+0^{hr}	May need optical aid SS: 18:35 MS: 19:37	Easily Visible SS: 18:37 MS: 21:09	Easily Visible SS: 18:39 MS: 22:44	Easily Visible SS: 18:41 MS: **:**
Newcastle Times in GMT i.e. UTC+0^{hr}	May need optical aid SS: 18:18 MS: 19:19	Easily Visible SS: 18:20 MS: 20:51	Easily Visible SS: 18:22 MS: 22:28	Easily Visible SS: 18:24 MS: **:**
Glasgow Times in GMT i.e. UTC+0^{hr}	May need optical aid SS: 18:29 MS: 19:32	Easily Visible SS: 18:31 MS: 21:06	Easily Visible SS: 18:33 MS: 22:44	Easily Visible SS: 18:35 MS: **:**
Jakarta Times in WIB i.e. UTC+7^{hr}	Not Visible	Easily Visible SS: 18:04 MS: 19:00	Easily Visible SS: 18:03 MS: 19:48	Easily Visible SS: 18:03 MS: 20:41

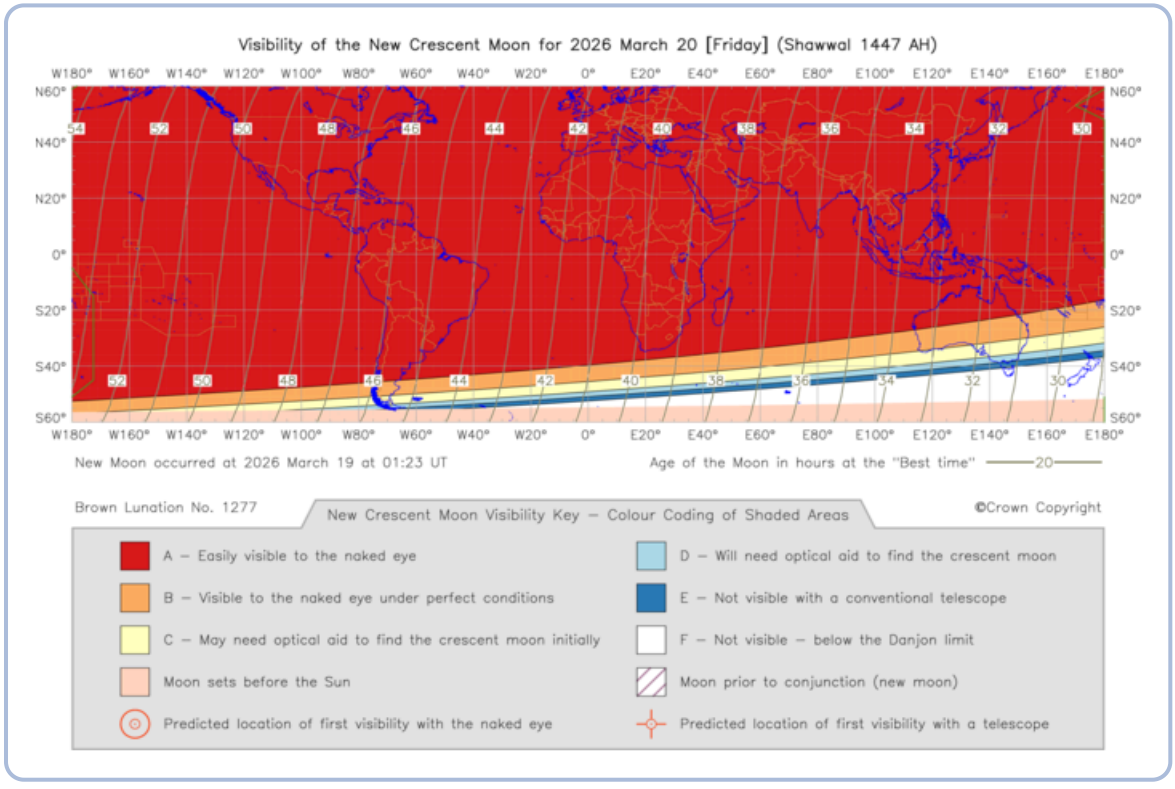
Karachi Times in PKT i.e. UTC+5^{hr}	Not Visible	Easily Visible SS: 18:43 MS: 20:11	Easily Visible SS: 18:43 MS: 21:16	Easily Visible SS: 18:44 MS: 22:24
Dhaka Times in BST i.e. UTC+6^{hr}	Not Visible	Easily Visible SS: 18:09 MS: 19:33	Easily Visible SS: 18:10 MS: 20:37	Easily Visible SS: 18:10 MS: 21:44
Cairo Times in EET i.e. UTC+2^{hr}	Not visible with a conventional telescope	Easily Visible SS: 18:06 MS: 19:47	Easily Visible SS: 18:07 MS: 20:55	Easily Visible SS: 18:08 MS: 22:06
Istanbul Times in EEST i.e. UTC+3^{hr}	Will need optical aid SS: 19:15 MS: 19:57	Easily Visible SS: 19:16 MS: 21:11	Easily Visible SS: 19:17 MS: 22:29	Easily Visible SS: 19:18 MS: 23:47
Cape Town Times in SAST i.e. UTC+2^{hr}	Not visible	Easily Visible SS: 18:58 MS: 19:36	Easily Visible SS: 18:56 MS: 20:10	Easily Visible SS: 18:55 MS: 20:50
Lagos Times in WAT i.e. UTC+1^{hr}	Not visible with a conventional telescope	Easily Visible SS: 18:57 MS: 20:19	Easily Visible SS: 18:57 MS: 21:14	Easily Visible SS: 18:57 MS: 22:14
Los Angeles Times in PDT i.e. UTC-7^{hr}	Easily Visible SS: 19:04 MS: 20:09	Easily Visible SS: 19:05 MS: 21:19	Easily Visible SS: 19:06 MS: 22:31	Easily Visible SS: 19:06 MS: 23:45

New Crescent Moon Visibility Maps for March 2026

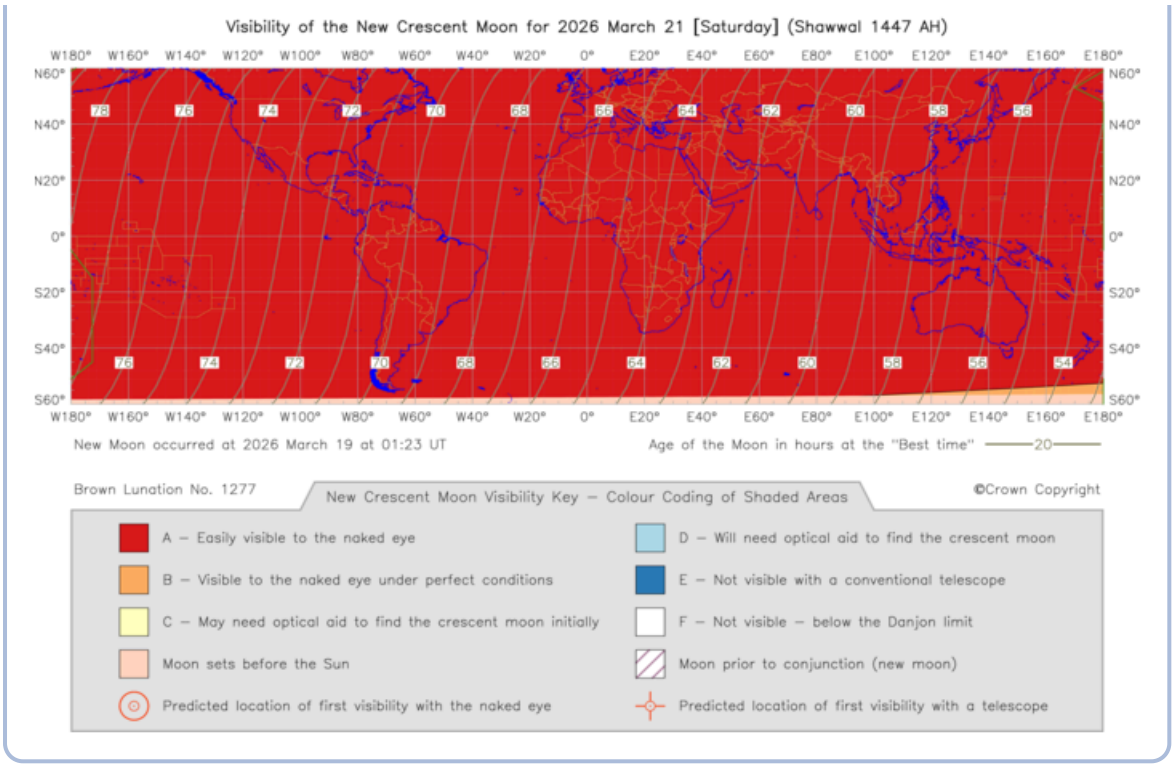
1) – Thursday March 19th 2026: The Moon sets before the Sun over the south-western part of Oceania and the southern tip of South America on March 19th. Telescopic sightings of the crescent moon on the same day with small, conventional amateur-sized telescopes are possible from western Turkey, parts of eastern Europe, western Russia, parts of North Africa, and northern parts of South America (e.g. central Brazil). Optical aid may be required to sight the crescent moon on the same day from the British Isles, western Europe, north-western Africa, and northern parts of South America (e.g. northern Brazil and Peru). Sightings with the naked eye under excellent conditions should be possible from the northern parts of the Atlantic Ocean region (including the Azores, Madeira and the western half of the Canary Islands), northern parts of South America (e.g. Columbia and Venezuela), north-eastern Canada, the southern half of the Caribbean region, southern parts of Central America and parts of Polynesia. Easy sightings the same day should be possible from most of North America, the northern half of the Caribbean region, northern and central parts of the western Pacific Ocean region including the Hawaiian Islands. Locations in North America except north-eastern Canada e.g. New York and Los Angeles, most of Central America and the northern Caribbean are favoured in terms of easy naked-eye sightings.



2) – Friday March 20th 2026: The majority of the globe should be able to make easy naked-eye sightings of the crescent moon on March 20th. The main exceptions are New Zealand, south-eastern Australia and the southernmost part of South America. These exceptions should be able to make easy sightings of the crescent moon on Saturday March 21st. All of the tabulated locations in the list will should be able to make an easy sighting of the crescent Moon by March 21st.



3) – Saturday March 21st 2026: The crescent moon should be easily visible to the naked eye on a global basis.



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