

The Long Night Moon Glides Past Venus

The waxing crescent Long Night Moon glides past the planet Venus, in the constellations Sagittarius (the Archer) & Capricornus (the Sea Goat), on the nights of **December 3-5**. This year the Long Night Moon is “full” on the night of December 14/15.

On these nights, Venus is located some 88 million miles (8 light minutes) behind the Moon, and it’s 66% illuminated by sunlight -- in a waning gibbous phase.

Cloud-covered Venus is the most reflective planet in the solar system which, along with its relative nearness, enhances its brightness as seen from Earth. No other planet outshines Venus!

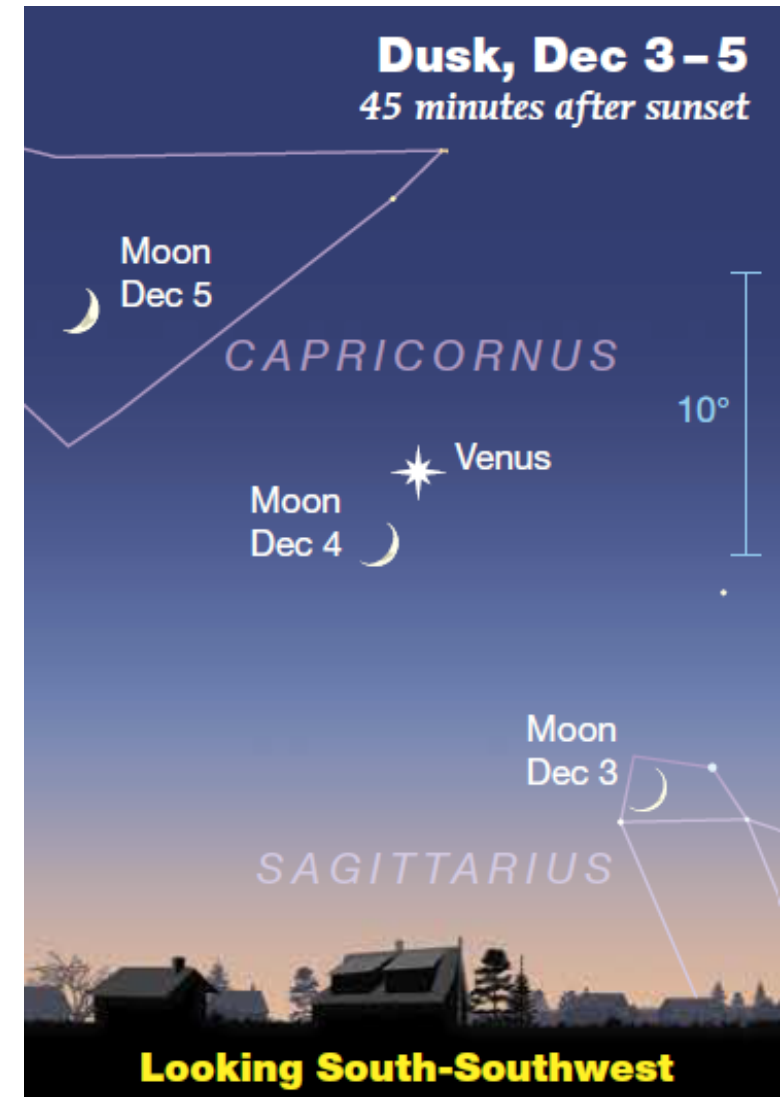


Illustration courtesy of
[SKY & TELESCOPE](#)