Astronomy Club of Asheville

January 2027 Sky Events

The Moon Passes by the Seven Sisters

On the nights of **January 17-19**, the waxing-gibbous Moon glides past the Pleiades star cluster (aka the Seven Sisters) in the zodiac constellation Taurus – the Bull.

Located some 440 light years away, the Pleiades star cluster is one of the closest galactic (open) star clusters to Earth, and there are thousands of galactic star clusters in our Milky Way Galaxy.

Use a pair of binoculars or a telescope at low magnification to enjoy an even more spectacular view of the daughters of Atlas and Pleione. This star cluster is very young (estimated around 120 million years), and it occupies a space of some 35 light years across. The brightest star in the cluster, Alcyone, is 1,000 times more luminous than our Sun!

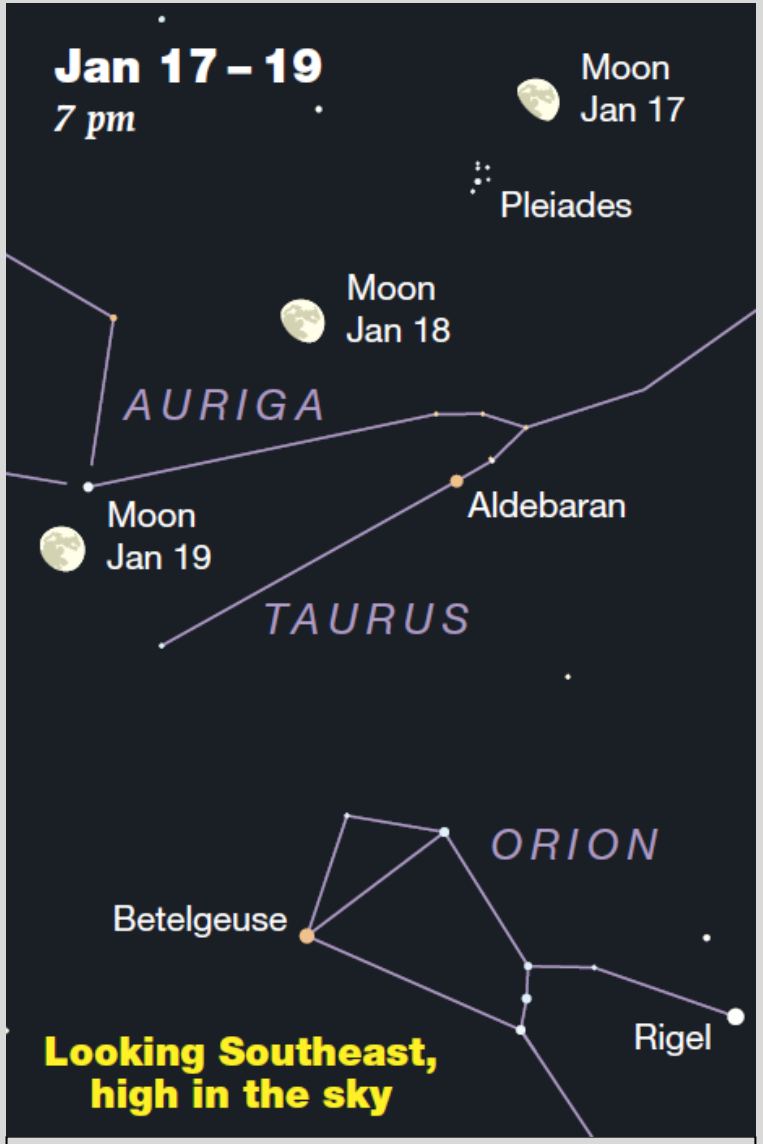

Illustration courtesy of SKY & TELESCOPE