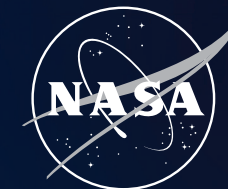


National Aeronautics and Space Administration



2026

NASA SCIENCE DRIVES EXPLORATION

[nasa.gov](https://www.nasa.gov)

NASA Science Drives Exploration



The NASA Science calendar represents an annual opportunity to reflect on the past, celebrate the present, and plan for the future. As we honor America's 250th anniversary, the NASA family has been thinking about how the agency's science missions are woven into the nation's legacy of discovery and innovation, and how we continue to shape that legacy today to build a better future.

The spirit of exploration that is so synonymous with NASA, and with the American identity, has led to some of the greatest scientific discoveries of our time. What we learn from NASA Science

missions makes life on Earth better for everyone and protects astronauts by driving critical technology forward. Data from our missions and technology help inform decision makers and first responders today and help lay the groundwork for the future science and engineering industries of tomorrow. NASA missions even spur industries and practical applications we can't yet imagine. Each mission builds on the foundation of those that came before; every discovery leads to new questions we seek to answer about our home planet, the universe, and our place in it.

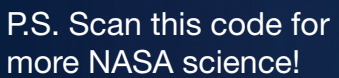
Both curiosity and practical challenges drive science and have led NASA missions to every planet in our solar system and beyond. From repeatedly "touching" the sun and collecting critical data at the center of our solar system, to venturing to the furthest reaches of our solar system, our spacecraft are helping us better understand how matter behaves, how planets form, and how Earth's many systems are interconnected.

Each month, as you flip to a new, beautiful science image, let your curiosity lead you. Each visual represents just one snapshot of the fascinating data we receive from NASA Science missions each day. You can explore the missions you see in the artwork and images in this calendar, learn more about NASA's history, and follow along with all the exciting missions we are operating today and launching in the future at science.nasa.gov.



Nicola Fox

Associate Administrator







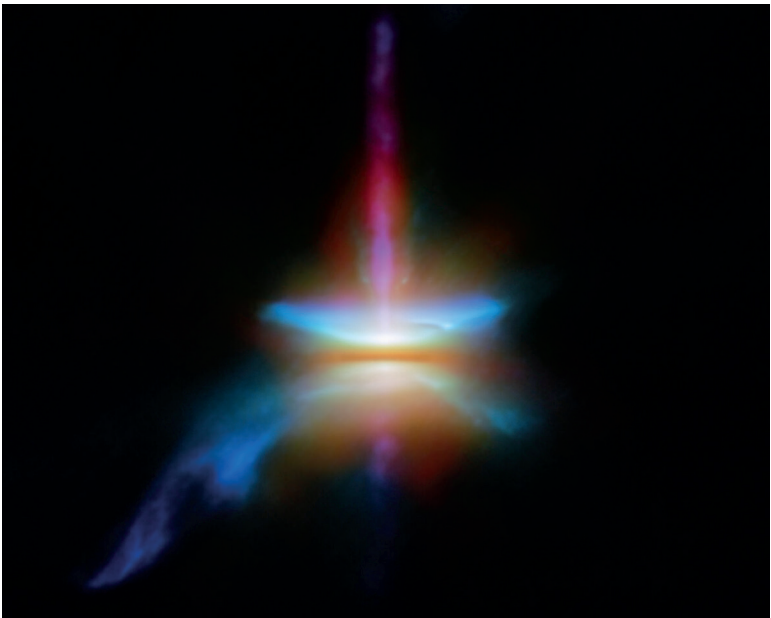
January 2026



NASA's Webb Telescope Unmasks True Nature of the Cosmic Tornado. NASA's James Webb Space Telescope observed Herbig-Haro 49/50, an outflow from a nearby still-forming star, in high-resolution near- and mid-infrared light in August 2024. The intricate features of the outflow, represented in reddish-orange color, provide detailed clues about how young stars form, including the early phases of low-mass stars like our own Sun, and how their jet activity affects the environment around them. By chance, Webb saw this nearby Herbig-Haro object aligned in the sky with a more distant spiral galaxy in the background. The spiral galaxy has a prominent central bulge represented in blue that shows the location of older stars. The bulge also shows

hints of "side lobes" suggesting that this could be a barred spiral galaxy. Reddish clumps within the spiral arms show the locations of warm dust and groups of forming stars. Studying wondrous cosmic landscapes like this deepens our understanding of how our own planet and solar system came to be. **Credit:** NASA, European Space Agency (ESA), Canadian Space Agency (CSA), Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI)

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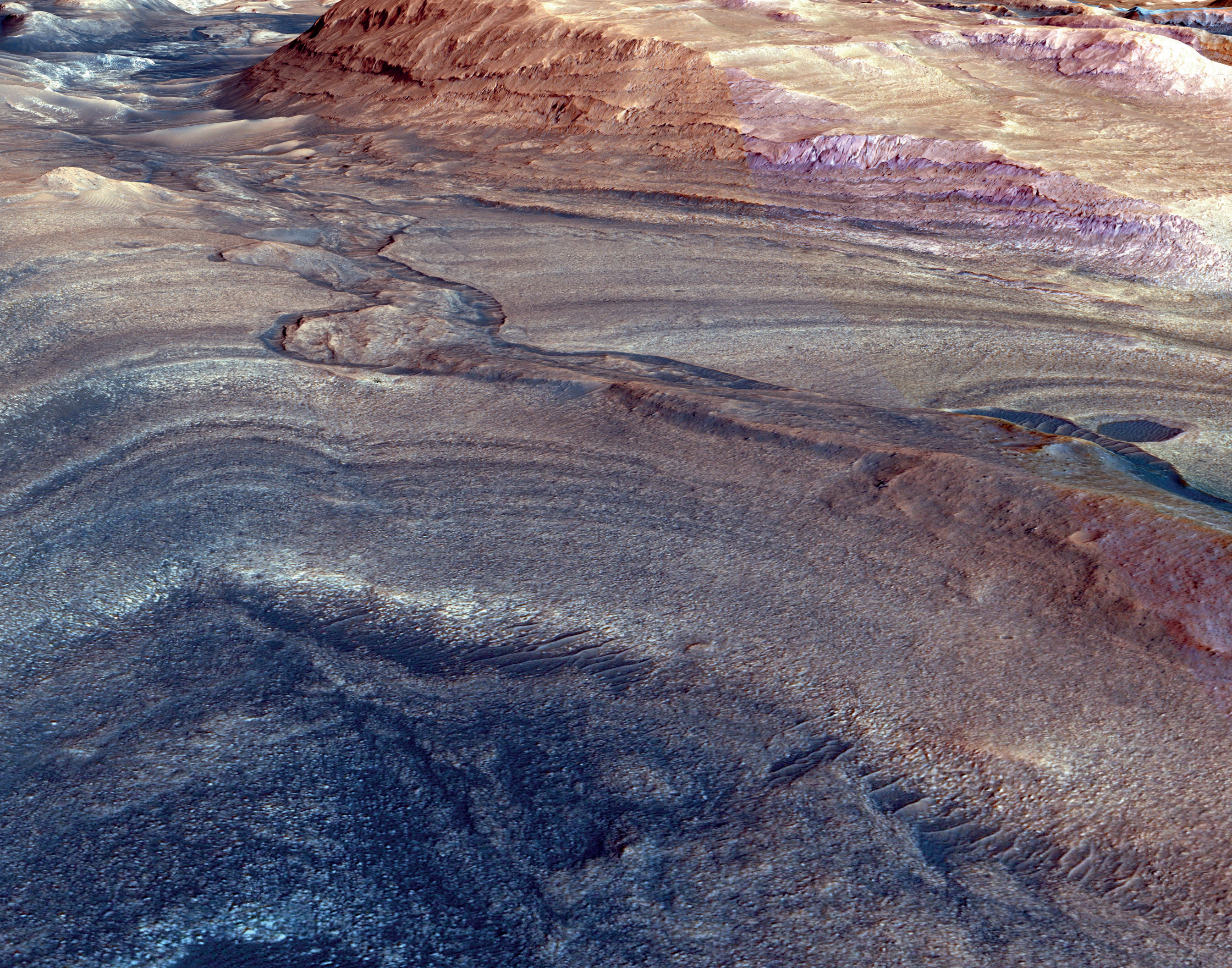


Where Do Planets Come From? Webb gave us an unprecedented look at Herbig-Haro 30, a newly formed star emitting powerful gaseous jets and surrounded by a disk of dust. The tiny dust grains may one day become seeds of new planets, and the jets may play a role in shaping the environment in which planets form. Herbig-Haro objects are small nebulae found in star formation regions, marking the locations where gas outflowing from young stars is heated into luminescence by shockwaves. This image combines data from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, Hubble Space Telescope, and the National Science Foundation's Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA) telescopes. **Credit:** NASA, ESA, CSA, STScI, ALMA [European Southern Observatory (ESO), the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO), and the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ)]

December 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day	2	3 Full Moon
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Last Quarter
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 New Moon	19 Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. (observed date)	20	21	22	23	24
25 First Quarter	26	27	28	29	30	31





February 2026



Curiosity's Climb for Climate Clues. These beautiful variations in rock along Mars' Gale Crater hold significant clues to understanding how the planet's climate has changed over millions of years and whether it ever had the conditions to support small life forms called microbes. (Spoiler alert: it did, maybe.) Formed by an impact some 3.7 billion years ago, the crater and adjacent Mount Sharp contain rocks and other sediment with the key chemical elements required by life. NASA's Curiosity rover explored the composition of these rocks and sediment, and it discovered signs that the crater held liquid water millions of years ago. The visualization here, created in March 2024 using data

from the HiRISE (High-Resolution Imaging Science Experiment) camera and other instruments on NASA's MRO (Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter), shows the steep slope climbed by Curiosity to reach the Gediz Vallis channel, visible in the upper part of the image. The area is particularly rich in sulfates, which are salty minerals that form as water evaporates. **Credit:** NASA/Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)-Caltech/University of California, Berkeley/University of Arizona

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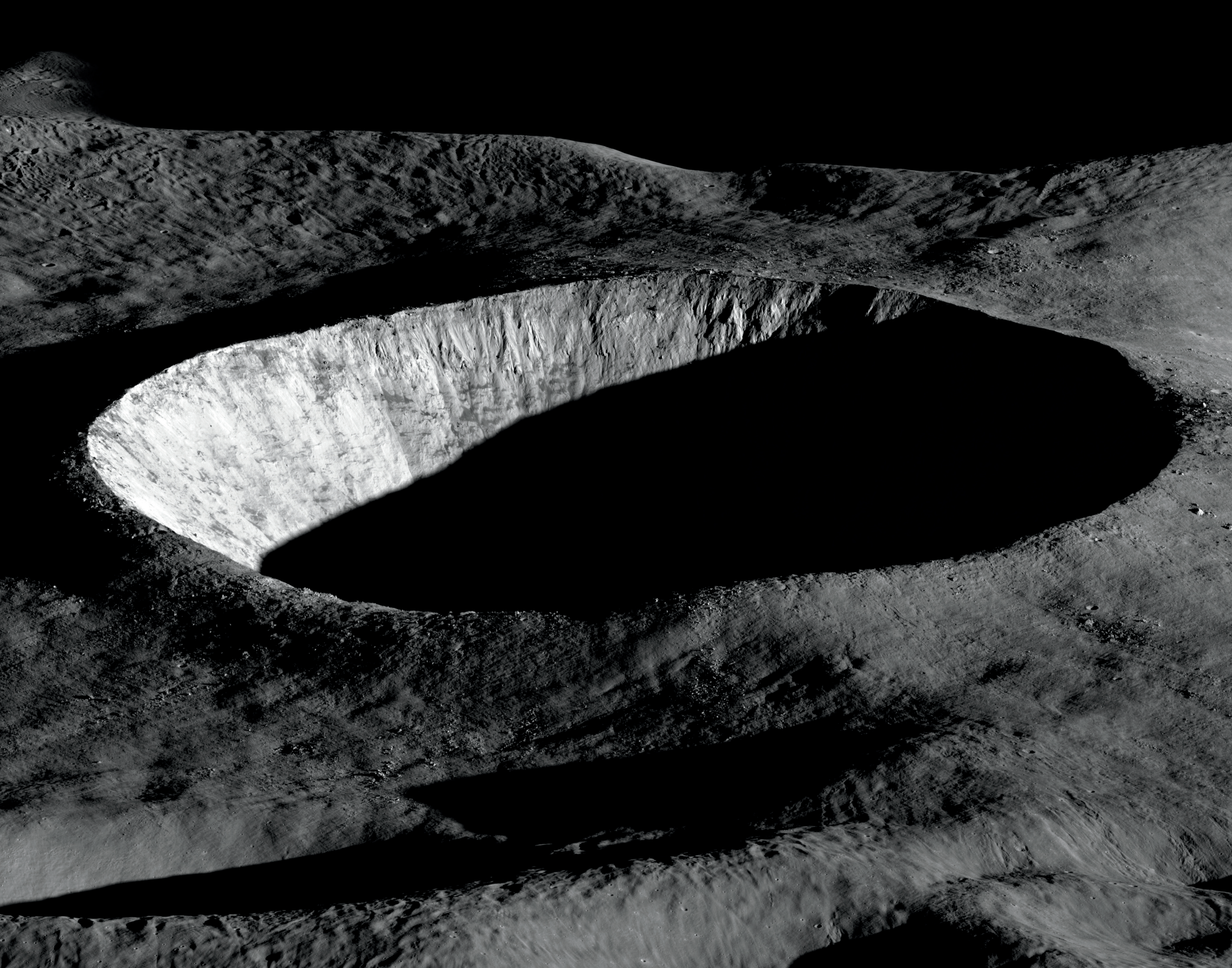


Sulfurous Surprise a First on Mars. On May 30, 2024, NASA's Curiosity rover drove over a Martian rock, splitting it open. Scientists were stunned to see yellow sulfur. While sulfur-based minerals had been discovered earlier, this was the first elemental, or pure, sulfur detected—and Curiosity found an entire field of similar rocks. The discovery is particularly interesting to scientists because elemental sulfur forms only in a narrow range of conditions, and those conditions haven't yet been associated with this region of Mars. **Credit:** NASA/Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)-Caltech/Malin Space Science Systems (MSSS)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1  Full Moon	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9  Last Quarter	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16 Washington's Birthday (observed date)	17  New Moon	18	19	20	21
22	23  First Quarter	24	25	26	27	28

January 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

March 2026						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				





March 2026



Good Morning, Moon. Early morning sunlight illuminates the western wall of this unnamed crater, leaving deep shadows on the ground and in the interior. The image was taken on August 30, 2023, by LROC (Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera). LROC is a system of three cameras and one of the seven instruments aboard NASA's LRO (Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter) mission, which launched in June 2009 and continues in orbit around the Moon. LRO's primary mission was to make a 3D map of the lunar surface to help identify future landing sites and resources such as polar ice, to investigate the radiation environment, and to prove new technologies, all in anticipation of future robotic and human exploration. In 2011, LRO data led to production of the

highest-resolution, near-topographical map of the Moon, and an interactive mosaic of the lunar North Pole was published in 2014. In addition, LRO has taken high-resolution photographs of myriad lunar landing sites from NASA's Apollo missions and others. LRO also conducted the first demonstration of laser communication with a lunar satellite. **Credit:** NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center/Intuitive Machines

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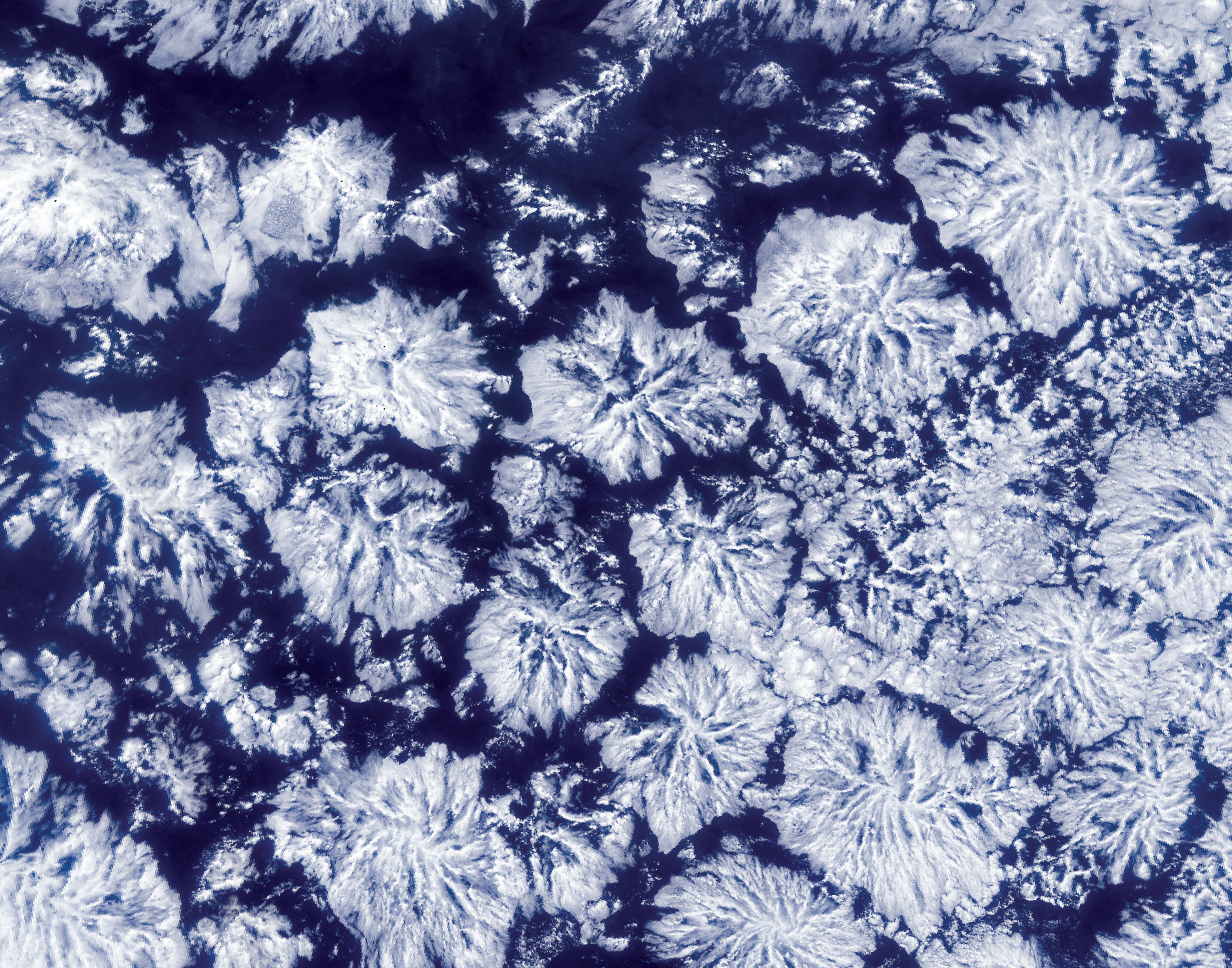


Lunar Stand-In. The rocky terrain of Iceland has served as a lunar stand-in for astronaut geology training since NASA's Apollo missions, for both its visual and geological similarities to the Moon's surface. The Artemis II crew, including mission specialist Christina Koch (right), joined NASA science team trainers, including NASA's Johnson Space Center's Artemis geology training lead Cindy Evans (left), on an Icelandic expedition in August 2024. Although the Artemis II crew will not land on the Moon, learning the fundamentals of geology will help them better identify and describe what they observe during their flyby of the lunar surface. **Credit:** NASA/Robert Markowitz

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 <div>Full Moon</div>	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 <div>Last Quarter</div>	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 <div>New Moon</div>	20	21
22	23	24	25 <div>First Quarter</div>	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28

April 2026						
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		





April 2026



Cloud Rays Over the Peruvian Coast. These low-lying clouds over the Pacific Ocean near Peru might bring to mind snowflakes under a magnifying glass, or high mountain peaks as seen from above. They're named actinoform clouds, from the Greek word for "ray," because of their distinctive radiating shapes. Researchers use satellite data to investigate clouds as they gather, move across the globe, and dissipate, getting a big-picture view of this essential element in Earth's weather and energy budget. Some clouds reflect solar energy back into space, while others act as an insulating blanket for the planet, trapping heat closer to the ground. This image was taken

July 14, 2024, by the Ocean Color Instrument on NASA's PACE (Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem) satellite. PACE also carries specialized instruments called polarimeters designed to measure clouds and other particles in the atmosphere, including dust, wildfire smoke, and pollution. With these new tools, scientists can track air quality and explore key questions about how clouds form and change over time. **Credit:** NASA/PACE Ocean Color Instrument

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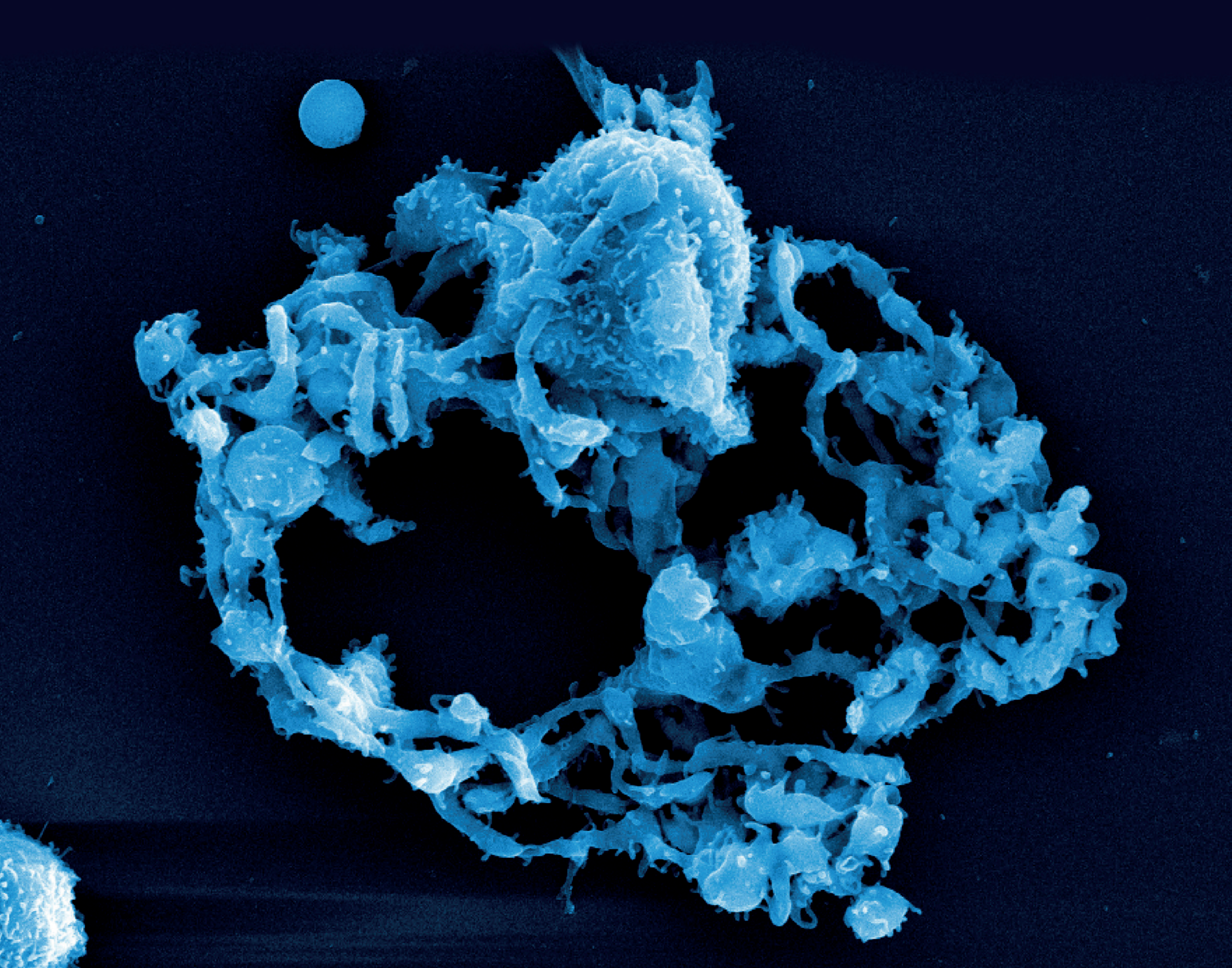


ER-2 Flies High for PACE. NASA pilot Greg "Coach" Nelson prepares for a flight on the ER-2 aircraft at NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center in Palmdale, California. His mission: to collect measurements that help assess the performance of NASA's PACE satellite, which observes tiny particles in the atmosphere and microscopic organisms in oceans and other bodies of water. These high-altitude flights were just one element of a 2024 field campaign called PACE-PAX (short for PACE Postlaunch Airborne eXperiment), which also involved scientists taking flight in a propeller plane and sailing aboard a research vessel to collect data. **Credit:** NASA

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Did you know that April is Citizen Science Month? NASA's citizen science projects are collaborations between scientists and interested members of the public. Many projects can be done by anyone, anywhere, with just a cellphone or laptop. Visit https://science.nasa.gov/citizenscience or scan the QR code to get started.			1	2 	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 	25
26	27	28	29	30		

March 2026						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

May 2026						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						





May 2026



Unlocking the Secrets of Aging and Disease. As NASA prepares to return to the Moon, studying the effects of the space environment on human blood clot formation is crucial. To explore this, researchers used a model system that mimics megakaryocytes—specialized cells in the bone marrow responsible for producing platelets. The development and function of these cells were observed in cultures aboard the International Space Station as part of the Megakaryocytes Orbiting in Outer Space and Near Earth (MeF1) investigation. Upon return to Earth, researchers analyzed the cells using scanning electron microscopy and false-color imaging. In the blue image, the megakaryocyte cell body is shown at the top center, with the intricate “wreath” structure formed by long “arms” called proplatelet extensions. These extensions eventually pinch off their

tips, giving rise to small daughter cells, or platelets, which play a vital role in regulating bleeding. One newly formed platelet is visible to the left of the main cell body. Studying how the space environment impacts cell development and function enables scientists to better understand the health risks to astronauts and create countermeasures to protect crew members on long-duration missions. **Credit:** Hansjörg Schwertz, Neal D. Tolley, Marina Tristao—Molecular Medicine Program, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT; Hansjörg Schwertz—Billings Clinic, Bozeman, MT; Hansjörg Schwertz—Division of Occupational Medicine, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

<https://go.nasa.gov/4f1b7TF>



MeF1 Core Team. This photo, taken in 2024, shows the MeF1 core team at NASA's Kennedy Space Center preparing their cell culture experiment for launch aboard SpaceX-31. The team is holding the Plate Habitat (BioServe) after inserting the BioCell Units (BioServe), proudly displaying the mission patch. From left to right: Marina Tristao, Neal Tolley, and Hansjörg Schwertz. **Credit:** Hansjörg Schwertz

April 2026						
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

June 2026						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Full Moon	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Last Quarter
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15	16 New Moon
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 First Quarter
24 Full Moon	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
31						





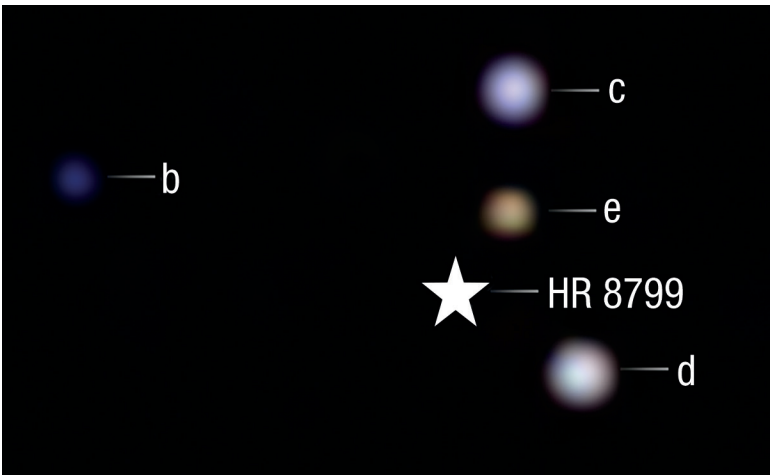
June 2026



NASA Missions Spot Cosmic “Wreath” Displaying Stellar Circle of Life. The star cluster NGC 602 lies on the outskirts of the Small Magellanic Cloud, which is one of the closest galaxies to the Milky Way, about 200,000 light-years from Earth. The stars in NGC 602 have fewer heavier elements compared to the Sun and most of the rest of our Milky Way galaxy. Instead, the conditions within NGC 602 mimic those for stars found billions of years ago when the universe was much younger, giving us insight into how the universe has evolved over time in the run-up to the formation of our own galaxy, solar system, and planet. This image, taken December 2024, combines data from NASA’s Chandra X-ray Observatory and James Webb Space Telescope. The dark ring-like outline of the wreath seen in Webb data (represented as orange, yellow, green, and blue) is made

up of dense clouds of dust. Meanwhile, X-rays from Chandra (red) show young, massive stars that are illuminating the wreath, sending high-energy light into interstellar space. These X-rays are powered by winds flowing from the young, massive stars that are sprinkled throughout the cluster. **Credit:** X-ray: NASA/Chandra X-ray Center (CXC); Infrared: European Space Agency (ESA)/Webb, NASA & Canadian Space Agency (CSA), P. Zeilder, E. Sabbi, A. Nota, M. Zamani; **Image processing:** NASA/CXC/Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO)/L. Frattare and K. Arcand

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/nasawebbtelescope/54213487373/in/album-72177720313923911>

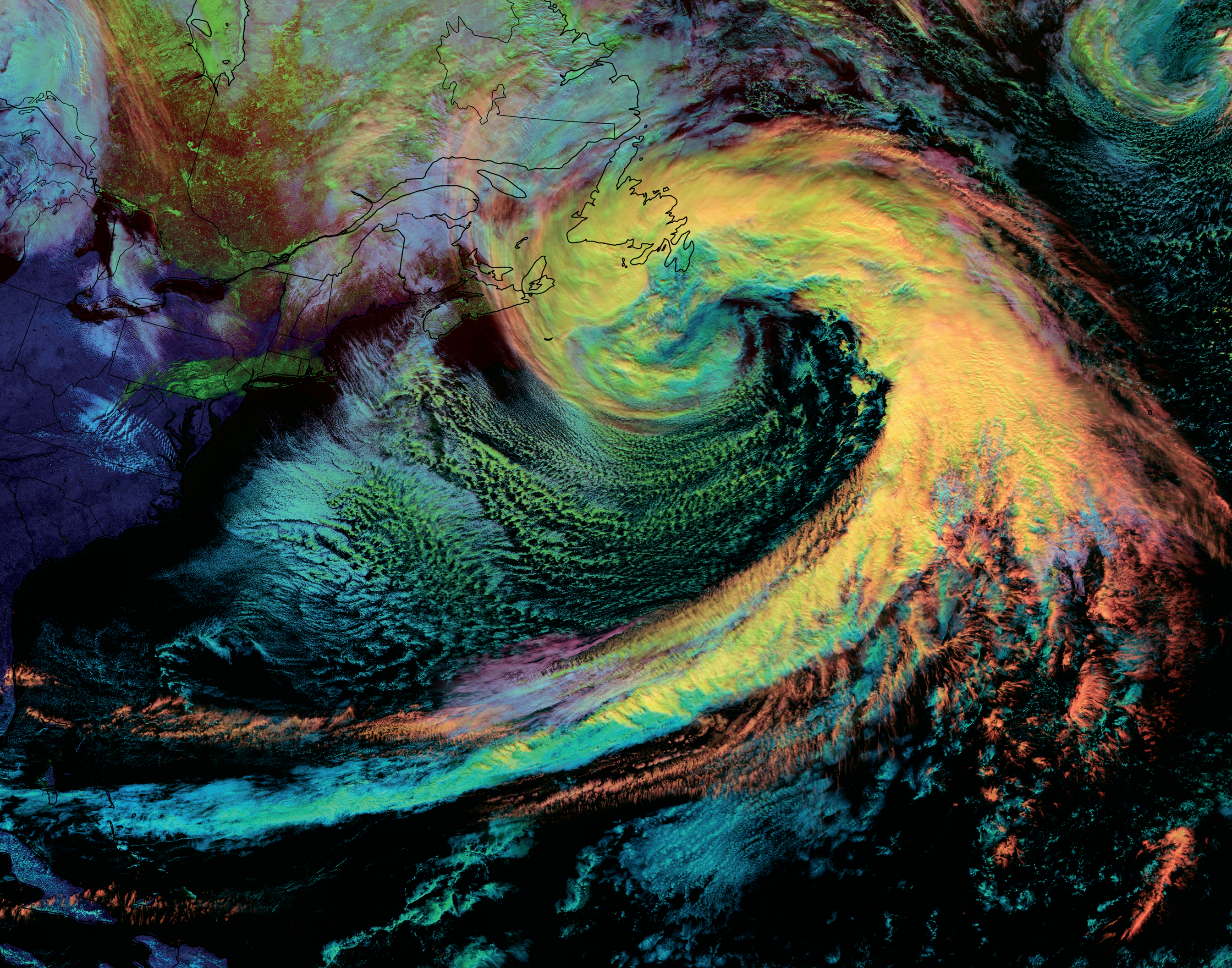


NASA's Webb Images Young, Giant Exoplanets and Detects Carbon Dioxide. NASA's James Webb Space Telescope has provided the clearest look in the infrared yet at the iconic multi-planet system HR 8799. A star symbol marks the location of the host star HR 8799, whose light has been blocked to reveal its planets. Webb's observations indicate these planets are rich in carbon dioxide gas and probably formed much like Jupiter and Saturn. Webb's ability to compare our solar system to others will help us understand the possibilities for life beyond our solar system and lay the groundwork for future NASA missions to search for life on other planets. **Credit:** NASA, ESA, CSA, Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI), W. Balmer (Johns Hopkins University), L. Pueyo (STScI), M. Perrin (STScI)

May 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

July 2026						
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Last Quarter	9	10	11	12	13
14 Flag Day	15 New Moon	16	17	18	19 Juneteenth National Independence Day	20
21 First Quarter	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Father's Day	29	30				
	31 Full Moon					





July 2026



Nor'easter Moves into the Atlantic. On February 14, 2024, this nor'easter was captured by NOAA's JPSS (Joint Polar Satellite System), a collaborative mission between NOAA and NASA. The image shows a large, swirling mass of clouds stretching from Eastern Canada to the Caribbean. The JPSS Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) instrument helps identify the storm's cloud type and phase. Yellow and orange areas show thick, high ice clouds, while green and teal show warmer clouds. This storm system developed in the Southwestern United States on February 10, bringing snow to the Texas Panhandle before moving northeast across the Ohio Valley and on to the East Coast. On February 13, the storm developed into a nor'easter, bringing heavy snow to the Mid-Atlantic and

Northeast states, causing power outages, flight delays, and school closings. Satellite imagery of severe storms provides crucial real-time data on storm system development, movement, and intensity. These updates improve forecasts and emergency response times for people in a storm's path. **Credit:** Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere at Colorado State University (CSU/CIRA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Environmental Satellite Data & Information Service (NOAA/NESDIS)

<https://www.nesdis.noaa.gov/noreaster>



Satellite Data Help Rescue Lives. The COSPAS-SARSAT Program is a satellite-aided search and rescue initiative that identifies emergency distress radio beacon signals and forwards data to ground centers to coordinate rescue. NASA helped develop the system, and NOAA's weather satellites are part of the international network that detects and locates distress signals sent from 406 MHz emergency beacons aboard aircraft, boats, and handheld Personal Locator Beacons. This photo highlights a United States Coast Guard rescue of six people who activated an emergency beacon after their 48-foot fishing vessel began to sink off the coast of Oak Island, North Carolina, on December 8, 2024. Since it began operating in 1982, COSPAS-SARSAT has supported more than 50,000 rescues worldwide, including more than 10,871 throughout the United States and its surrounding waters. **Credit:** United States Coast Guard

June 2026						
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28	29	30				

August 2026						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
					Independence Day (observed date)	Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Last Quarter				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		New Moon				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		First Quarter				
26	27	28	29	30	31	
			Full Moon			





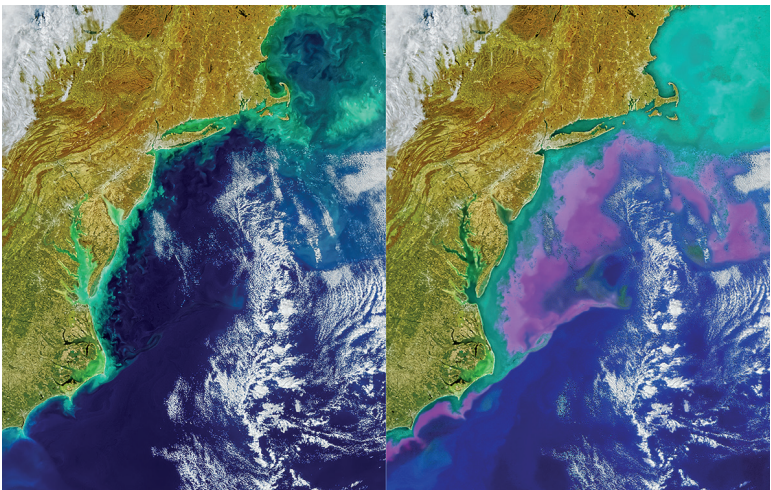
August 2026



Pyramid Lake in Bloom. Dense bands of blue-green algae, or cyanobacteria, swirled through the waters of Pyramid Lake in October 2024. This lake in western Nevada experiences blooms almost every year, some of which produce toxins that can sicken people and animals. Satellite instruments, such as the one that captured this image from the joint NASA/U.S. Geological Survey's Landsat mission, can detect the green chlorophyll pigments in these algae. If there's

a sharp increase that indicates a bloom, satellite data can help recreation managers and water resource departments determine where to focus water quality testing, enabling them to issue timely alerts for swimmers and boaters when necessary. **Credit:** NASA Earth Observatory/Landsat

<https://go.nasa.gov/3BUgBAW>

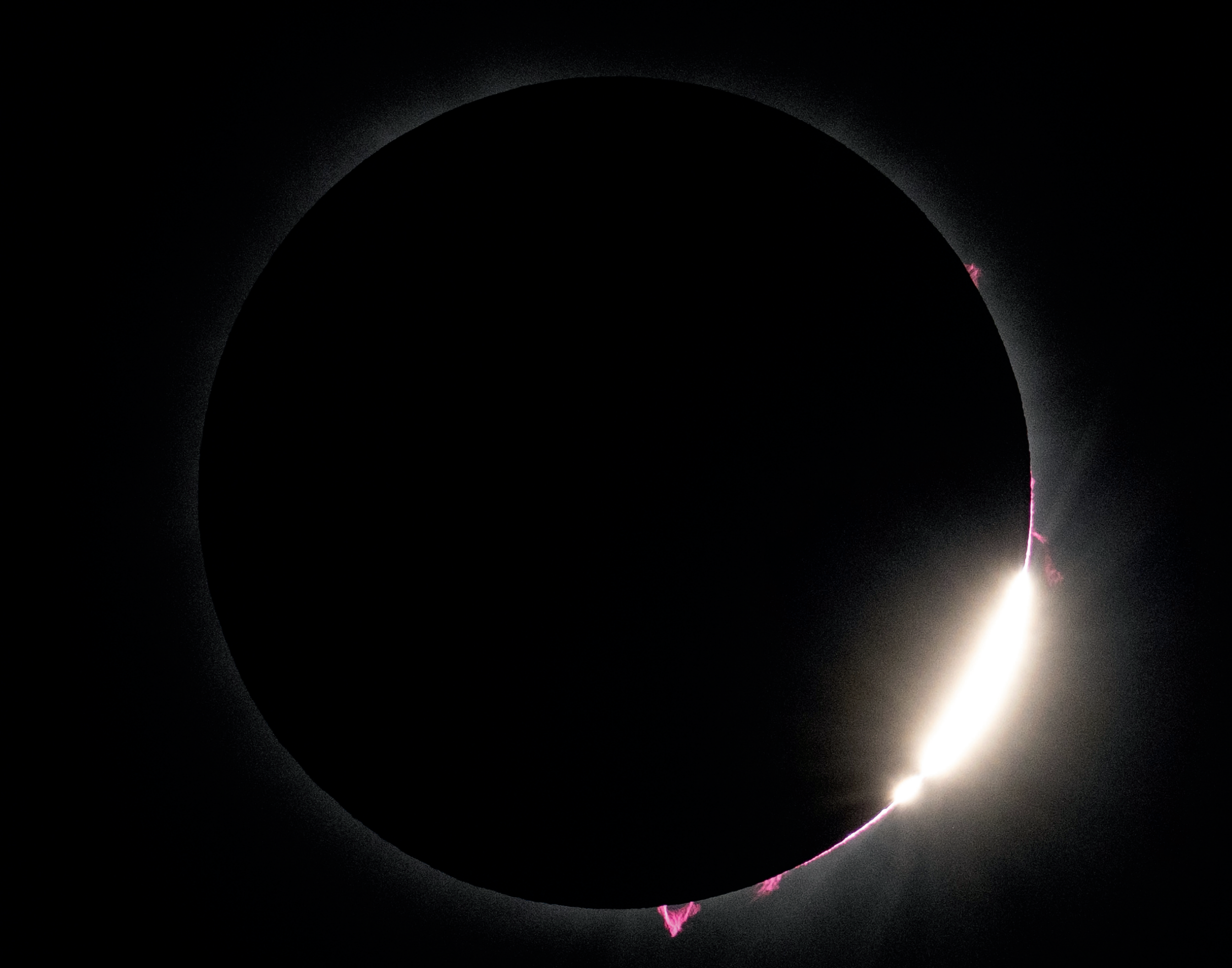


Microscopic Life, Identified from Space. The hyperspectral Ocean Color Instrument (OCI) aboard NASA's PACE (Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem) satellite provides an unprecedented view of life on Earth, revealing information about the tiny organisms that play an oversized role in our ocean ecosystems. In images that reflect the colors our eyes can see, such as the view of the U.S. East Coast and Atlantic Ocean shown on the left, we can identify swirls of green phytoplankton. But with the new instrument aboard PACE, scientists can visualize different wavelengths of light to identify which types of phytoplankton are present—an important distinction, as some are toxic while others are essential for fisheries and the planet's carbon cycle. **Credit:** PACE/Carina Poulin

July 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

September 2026						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6 	7	8
9	10	11	12 	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 	29
30	31					





September 2026



Nature's Coronagraph. The Moon blocks the bright light of the Sun, revealing a glimpse of its corona just after totality in Dallas, Texas, on Monday, April 8, 2024. The bright pink features seen here, called solar prominences, are jets of plasma extending from the Sun's surface, visible during an eclipse. "Bailey's beads" appear as white slivers of sunlight pass through valleys on the Moon. The total solar eclipse swept across a narrow portion of the North American continent, with scientists and citizen scientists collecting data along the path of totality to help researchers

study the innermost part of the corona that is visible only during total solar eclipses. These data provide insights into fundamental questions about how heat and energy are transferred from the Sun out into the solar system, which can impact humans and technology in its path.
Credit: NASA/Keegan Barber

<https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses>

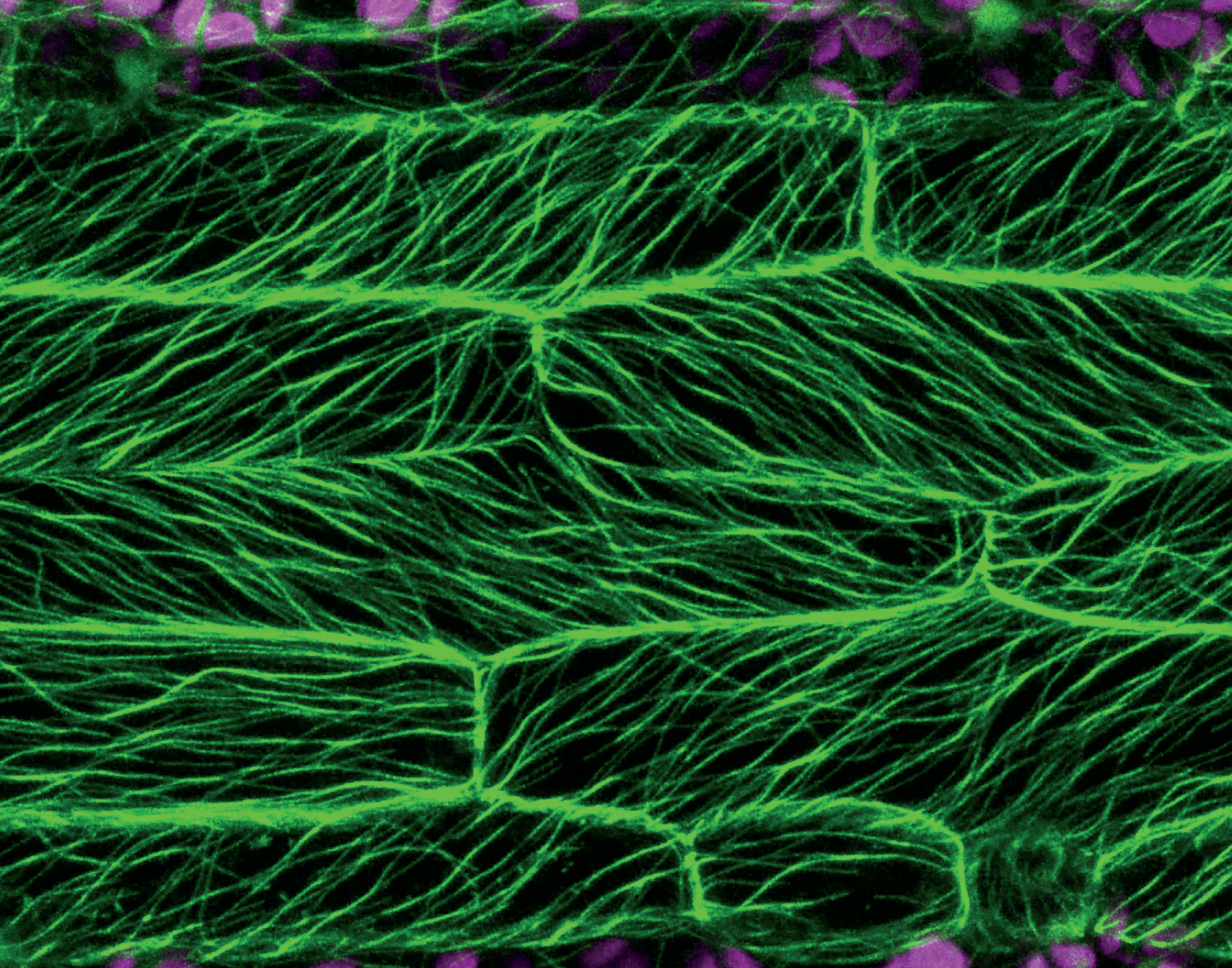


Ring of Fire (2023). On October 14, 2023, an annular solar eclipse crossed North, Central, and South America. Millions of people in the Western Hemisphere experienced this celestial event, which was visible in parts of the United States, Mexico, and several countries in Central and South America. An annular solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth while it is at or near its farthest point from Earth. Because the Moon appears smaller than the Sun from this distance, it does not completely cover the solar disk. As a result, the Sun appears as a bright "ring of fire" in the sky for observers located along the path of annularity.
Credit: NASA/Jim Spann

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 <div>Last Quarter</div>	5
6	7 <div>Labor Day</div>	8	9	10	11 <div>New Moon</div>	12
13	14	15	16	17 <div>Constitution Day</div>	18 <div>First Quarter</div>	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 <div>Full Moon</div>
27	28	29	30			

August 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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October 2026						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31





October 2026



To Boldly Grow Where No One Has Grown Before. To go farther and stay longer in space, astronauts will need sustainable sources of nutrition. NASA's Biological and Physical Sciences division conducts research on how different plants adapt to harsh conditions in space, which could inform future space crops. This leaf cell image of *Brachypodium distachyon*, a grass species related to wheat and oats, was created by a microscope that illuminates cells to produce vibrant colors. The green filaments are cell components called microtubules, and the magenta bodies

are chloroplasts. This research was conducted aboard the International Space Station from 2021 to 2025 as part of Advanced Plant Experiments (APEX)-07 and -09. **Credit:** Utilization & Life Sciences Office, NASA's Kennedy Space Center

<https://go.nasa.gov/43G9HLe>



Advanced Plant Habitat. Pictured here are Small Plants for Agriculture in Confined Environments (SPACE) tomatoes and Microtom control plants growing in NASA's Advanced Plant Habitat in preparation for a 2021 investigation (Plant Habitat-08) on the International Space Station. This photo shows the end of the first growth cycle of the pre-flight science verification test, when plants were 97 days old and ready to harvest. At harvest, scientists extracted, dried, and replanted seeds from selected fruit for a second growth cycle. **Credit:** Oscar Monje, Aetos Systems, Inc., NASA's Kennedy Space Center

September 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

November 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3  Last Quarter
4	5	6	7	8	9	10  New Moon
11	12 <div>Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples' Day</div>	13	14	15	16	17
18  First Quarter	19	20	21	22	23	24
25  Full Moon	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween





November 2026



Close Encounters of the Asteroid Kind. On April 20, 2025, NASA's Lucy spacecraft captured this image of the asteroid Donaldjohanson as Lucy flew through the main asteroid belt on its way to its ultimate destinations at Jupiter's Trojan asteroids. Asteroids, the rocky remains formed at the birth of our solar system, may help us understand the origins of our planets and other small bodies. Donaldjohanson was thought to have been formed by the collision of two smaller bodies, what's known as a contact binary, but the odd shape of the connection between the two lobes hints at a more complex geology that scientists can now study in detail thanks to the data collected by Lucy's instruments. The Lucy spacecraft is named after the fossilized remains of

Lucy, one of the first human ancestors, which was discovered by anthropologist Donald Johanson, for whom this asteroid is named. This is Lucy's second main-belt asteroid encounter. Lucy is the first space mission to the Trojan asteroids, and the data it collects will provide new insight into the origins of our solar system. **Credit:** NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center/Southwest Research Institute (SwRI)/Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (APL)

<https://go.nasa.gov/3TgBDiv>

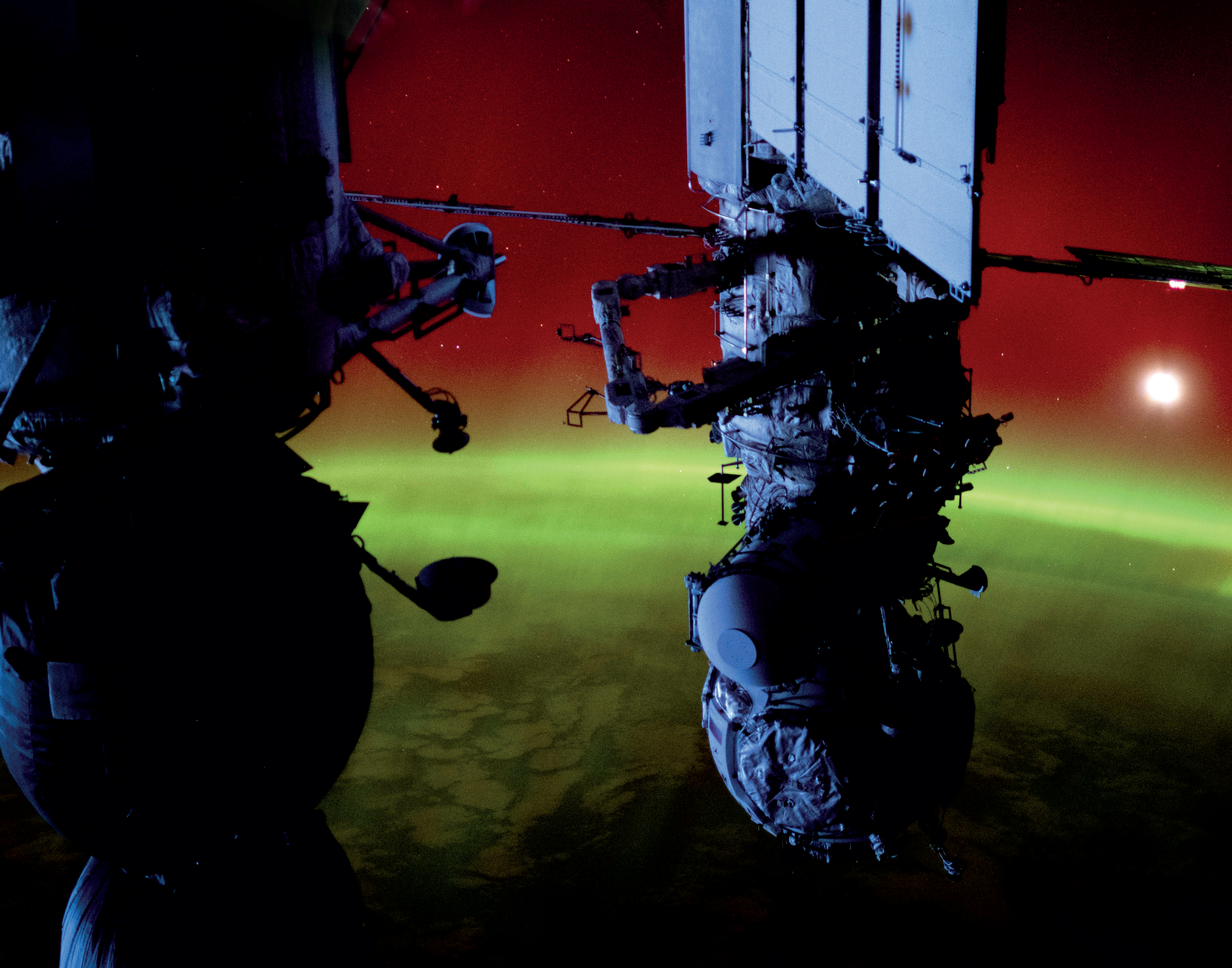


Watching Out for Too-Close Encounters of the Asteroid Kind. NASA's NEO (Near-Earth Object) Surveyor mission, seen here undergoing environmental testing in the Space Environment Simulation Laboratory at NASA's Johnson Space Center in December 2024, is the agency's first space-based detection mission specifically designed for planetary defense. Slated to launch no earlier than September 2027, NEO Surveyor's infrared detectors will seek out, measure, and characterize otherwise hard-to-find dark asteroids and comets that could pose an impact hazard to Earth. **Credit:** NASA/Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)-Caltech

October 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

December 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div><div>Last Quarter</div><div>1</div></div>	2	3	4	5	6	7
<div>Daylight Saving Time Ends</div>						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	<div><div>New Moon</div></div>		Veterans Day			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		<div><div>First Quarter</div></div>				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		<div><div>Full Moon</div></div>				
29	30				Thanksgiving Day	





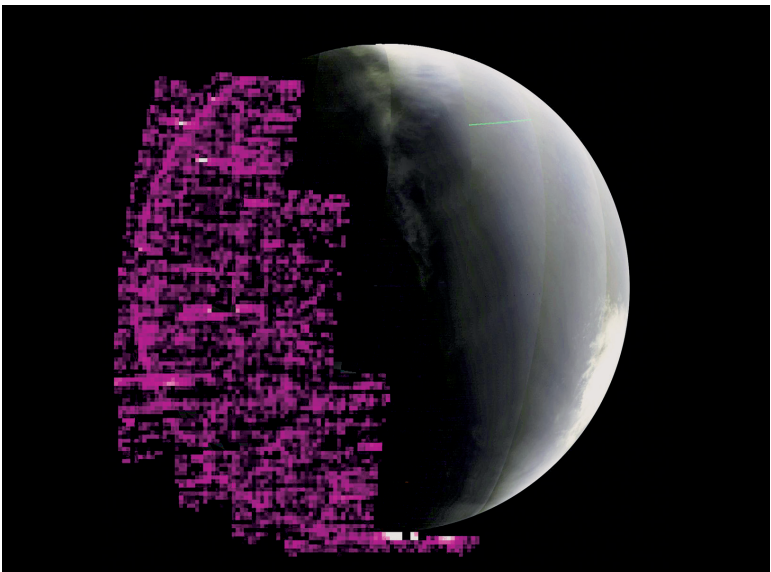
December 2026



Astronauts Fly Through Red Aurora. Bright red auroras are very rare, occurring only with intense solar activity when charged particles from the Sun collide with atomic oxygen 120 miles (200 km) or higher above Earth. In October 2024, severe geomagnetic storms instigated dazzling displays of northern lights visible from shockingly low latitudes on the ground. In space, the aurora caught NASA astronauts Don Pettit and Matthew Dominick off guard on October 10, when they realized they were flying through it in a cosmic sea of deep red. “The sun goes burp and the atmosphere turns red,” said Pettit, who snapped this photo from the International Space Station. “Spectacular not only from Earth, but from orbit as well.” NASA’s Moon to Mars

Space Weather Analysis Office traced the source of this aurora to an X1.8 flare that the Sun emitted on October 9. Such intense storms pose the greatest risk of damage, making the resulting auroras a critical area of study for scientists. Pettit marveled on social media, “It looked like the International Space Station had been shrunk to some miniature dimension and inserted into a neon sign. We were not flying *above* the aurora; we were flying *in* the aurora.” **Credit:** NASA astronaut Don Pettit

https://x.com/astro_Pettit/status/1844748089560596542

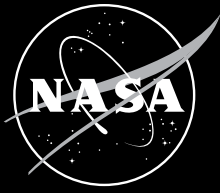


MAVEN Detects Auroras During Solar Storm in 2024. Earth is not the only planet that experiences auroras—any planet with an atmosphere has the potential to develop auroras when its star emits powerful, energized particles. NASA's MAVEN (Mars Atmosphere and Volatile EvolutionN) orbiter captured images between May 14 and 20, 2024, as the spacecraft orbited below Mars. The south pole is seen on the right, in full sunlight, while the night side lights up as waves of energetic particle from a solar event cascade across the Red Planet's atmosphere. This image uses false color (purple) to represent the auroras detected by MAVEN. The brighter the purple, the more auroras were present. **Credit:** NASA/University of Colorado/ Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP)

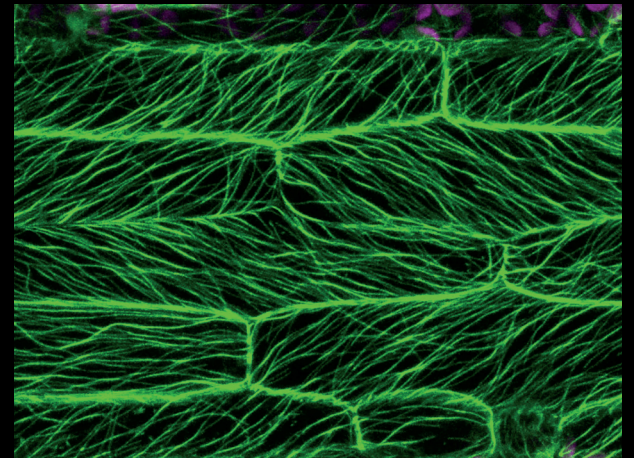
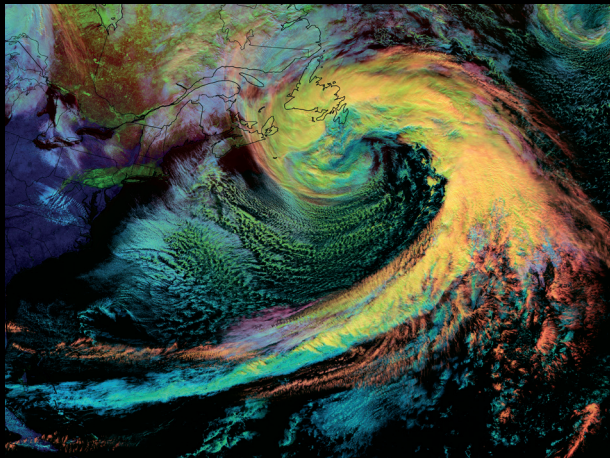
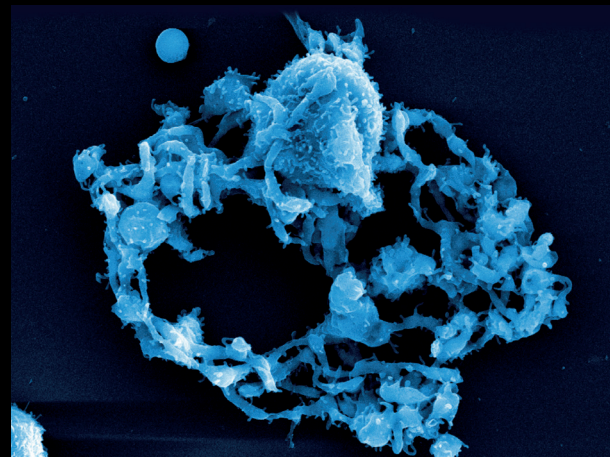
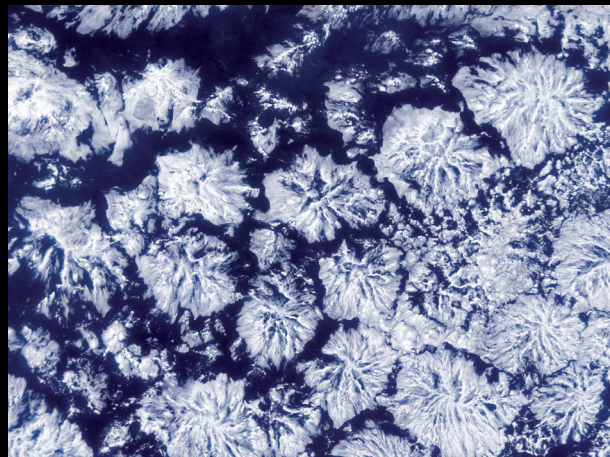
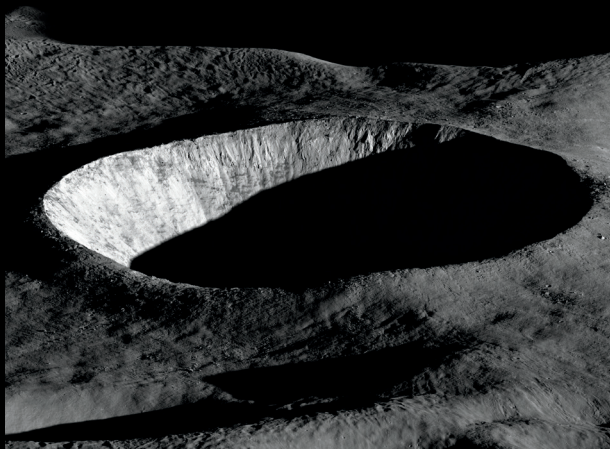
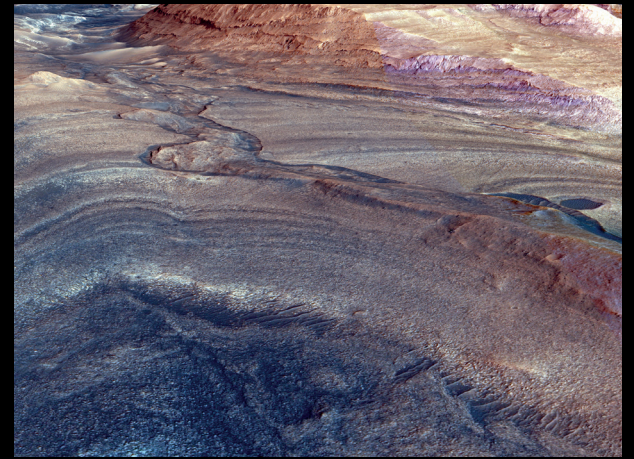
November 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

January 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1  Last Quarter	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9  New Moon	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17  First Quarter	18	19
20	21	22	23	24  Full Moon	25 Christmas Day	26
27	28	29	30  Last Quarter	31		



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