

Mars •

☾ Moon

Looking Southwest
5:30 p.m.
January 12

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,000
Music.

2
00:00:02,000 --> 00:00:06,000
Jane Houston Jones: What's Up for January. Close encounters of the planetary kind.

3
00:00:06,000 --> 00:00:12,000
Hello and welcome. I'm Jane Houston Jones at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

4
00:00:12,000 --> 00:00:16,000
It's easy and fun to find planets when they're next to the moon.

5
00:00:16,000 --> 00:00:23,000
Saturn is visible in the southeastern dawn sky near Virgo's bright white star Spica and the moon on the fifth.

6
00:00:23,000 --> 00:00:26,000
And to the left of the moon on the sixth.

7
00:00:26,000 --> 00:00:31,000
On the 10th, Venus will be next to the crescent moon before dawn.

8
00:00:31,000 --> 00:00:35,000
In the evening sky, catch red Mars low to the horizon.

9
00:00:35,000 --> 00:00:39,000
You'll find it to the left of the slender crescent moon on the 12th.

10
00:00:39,000 --> 00:00:44,000
Look the next night and you'll see the crescent moon is bigger and above Mars.

11
00:00:44,000 --> 00:00:47,000
Jupiter continues to reign supreme this month.

12
00:00:47,000 --> 00:00:52,000
So try to join a local star party to see its amazing details through a telescope.

13
00:00:52,000 --> 00:00:57,000

You won't need a telescope to see some close encounters with the moon and Jupiter this month.

14

00:00:57,000 --> 00:01:05,000

In the early evening of January 10, you'll find Jupiter below the Pleiades, halfway up in the eastern sky.

15

00:01:05,000 --> 00:01:14,000

Then, between January 20 and 23, you'll see the moon pass from Jupiter's right to its left.

16

00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:17,000

They are less than 1 degree apart on the evening of the 21st.

17

00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:23,000

Look at 8 p.m. Pacific or 11 p.m. Eastern to see this close pairing.

18

00:01:23,000 --> 00:01:28,000

Meanwhile, you can also find where NASA's Juno, Dawn and even the Voyager spacecraft are

19

00:01:28,000 --> 00:01:31,000

against the constellations.

20

00:01:31,000 --> 00:01:34,000

Just use NASA's Eyes on the Solar System.

21

00:01:34,000 --> 00:01:39,000

To learn about all of NASA's missions, visit www.nasa.gov.