

# Total lunar eclipse this Saturday



**Neil Roberts**  
*The Sky's the Limit*

a.m. you'll be able to catch a similar event as the moon descends into the horizon by sunrise.

## **Sky watch**

There will be a total lunar eclipse this Saturday. It starts at about 3 a.m. and lasts until about 6 a.m. No visual aids needed as it's very obvious to see in the southwest-west sky.

On Friday, April 19, look northwest-west after sundown and Mercury, Mars and the moon will be lined up. Venus will be a bit higher up.

On Tuesday, April 21, just after sundown you can catch Aldebaran and Venus hanging out with the moon,

and if you go lower to the horizon, you will see Mars and Mercury.

The Lyrids Meteor Shower, also known as April shooting stars, are produced by dust particles left behind by a comet. They will peak before dawn on Thursday, April 23. Look east into the constellation of Lyra, near Vega, and you should be able to catch 10-20 meteors per hour on average with rare surges of up to 100.

## **Public events**

Experts from The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (Calgary) will give a short indoor presentation on "The Spring Sky" on Friday, April 10. Astronomy enthusiasts can then check out the heavens on an 11-inch telescope outside the Vulcan Tourism and Trek Station.

There will be an opportunity to snap your own smartphone photos of the moon and planets.

Refreshments are served, and all are welcome to this

free event, which starts at 7:30 p.m.

For further information, contact Vulcan Tourism at 403-485-2994 or visit [www.vulcantourism.com](http://www.vulcantourism.com).

The Observer Night at the Telescope Farm in Didsbury is hosted by All-Star Telescope (<http://www.all-startelescope.com/>) just outside Didsbury. The next observer night takes place on Saturday, April 18, starting at 8 p.m. and lasting until midnight. This full-facility telescope dealer has a heated showroom with washrooms, and everything is provided for free.

For further information, contact Ken From at 866-310-8844 or visit <http://www.all-startelescope.com/pages/observer-nights>.

*Neil Roberts is a member of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Neil welcomes your questions and comments at 403-560-6574 and [Neil\\_Roberts@ptccanada](mailto:Neil_Roberts@ptccanada).*

Most New Testament scholars agree that Friday, April 3, 33 AD was the original Good Friday, and even NASA has confirmed there was a Total Lunar Eclipse that day.

Thanks to astronomy software, you can now recreate the event, and there are some very telling phenomena. While the Scripture doesn't mention a Lunar eclipse, it does list 3 p.m. as the approximate time Christ died on the cross.

Believe it or not, that's close to the time the moon was going into eclipse below the horizon and when it raised in the late afternoon it was actually in full-blood red mode. That would have frightened the daylighters of all present in Jerusalem that day. Christians peg their entire faith on the Sunday morning resurrection and historical records outside the Bible confirm this actually happened April 5, 33 AD. This Saturday, April 4, before dawn at about 5