

# Lifestyle

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2018



A person poses for a photo as the moon rises over Griffith Park in Los Angeles, California, on January 30, 2018. Many parts of the globe may catch a glimpse on January 31 of a giant crimson moon, thanks to a rare lunar trifecta that combines a blue moon, a super moon and a total eclipse. The spectacle, which NASA has coined as 'super blue blood moon.' — AFP

## There's a 'super blue blood Moon' on the rise



People set up telescopes near Victoria Harbor in the hope of seeing a 'supermoon' on a cloudy evening in Hong Kong yesterday.



The moon sets behind the city of Jerusalem early yesterday.



The moon rises over a pagoda in Kumal, some 105 kms away from Mandalay City yesterday.

Stargazers in North America, Hawaii, the Middle East, Russia, India, and Australia had the chance to witness a rare "super blue blood Moon" yesterday, when Earth's shadow bathed our satellite in a coppery hue. The celestial show is the result of the sun, Earth, and Moon lining up perfectly for a lunar eclipse just as the Moon is near its closest orbit point to Earth, making it appear "super" large. It is the second full Moon within the same month, a phenomenon called a "blue" Moon which has nothing to do with its color.

The "blood" in the name comes from the reddish brown color the Moon takes on when Earth enters between it and the sun, cutting off the light rays that usually brighten the lunar surface. Thousands gathered at Los Angeles' Griffith Observatory, which opened its doors at 3:30 am (11:30 GMT) to a crowd expected to reach 2,000. Some had waited in line since 10:00 pm the night before, hoping for a choice viewing spot. Coffee was on sale, and many

science buffs brought their own telescopes to set up on the lawn. The eclipse began around 3:45 am, as a black shadow began to devour one corner of the gray-white Moon.

An hour later, the lunar surface was plunged into darkness, known as totality. Then, rusty tones began to sheath the Moon, reflecting the light of all the sunrises and sunsets on Earth at the same moment. The extreme east of Africa, the Middle East and Asia, Russia, Australia and New Zealand could enjoy the spectacle last night, as the Moon rises there. People in Hawaii, Australia and eastern Asia should be able to follow the full eclipse from beginning to end, said NASA. But most of South America, Africa and Europe, where the alignment occurs in the middle of the day, will miss out on the show.

### How to watch

The last "super blue blood moon" occurred on December 30, 1982, when it was seen in Europe, Africa and western Asia. For North



This combo image (from top left clockwise) shows the moon during a lunar eclipse referred to as the "super blue blood moon" in Jakarta yesterday.

America, the last time was in 1866. This time around, viewing will be a challenge for those on the US East Coast. The eclipse begins just as the Moon is setting in the west and the sun is rising in the east. Moon-watching parties for the one-hour-16-minute eclipse were advertised up and down the US West Coast. But people outside the path of totality, or whose view was obstructed by cloudy weather, could follow the event live via NASA.gov. If you miss this one, the next blue moon total lunar eclipse will happen on December 31, 2028, though it won't be quite as large since it will not be as close to Earth. Another will occur on January 31, 2037. "The red color during a lunar eclipse is very distinctive and it's a rare treat to be able to see a blood red moon," said Brian Rachford, associate professor of physics at the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. "One of the great things about a lunar eclipse is you also don't need any special equipment to see it. Anyone can go outside and look at the moon." — AFP



Indonesian gather to view the moon during a lunar eclipse taking place during the "super blue blood moon" phenomenon in Jakarta yesterday.



The moon is seen during a lunar eclipse referred to as the "super blue blood moon", in Jakarta.



An Indonesian woman uses a telescope to view the moon during a lunar eclipse taking place during the "super blue blood moon" phenomenon.