

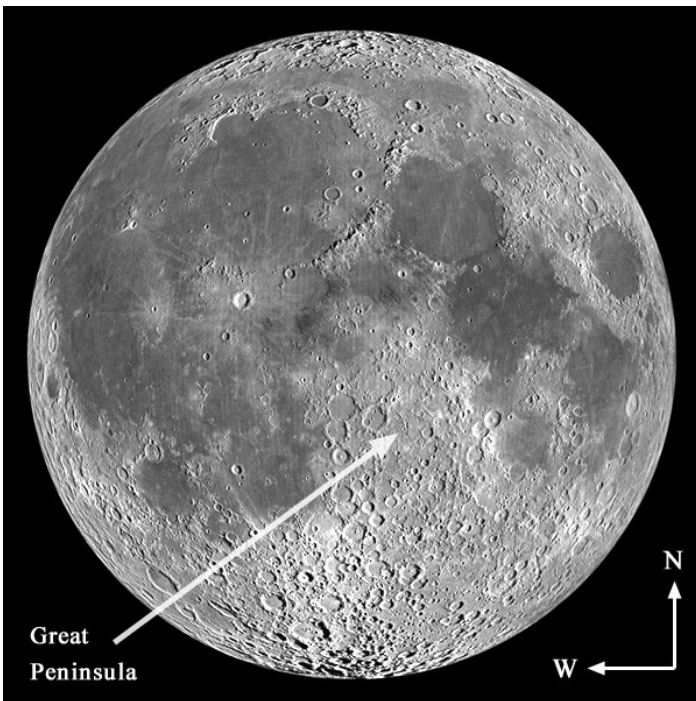
Great Peninsula

What It Is

The Great Peninsula is a heavily cratered region surrounded by lunar maria (“seas” and “oceans”). When the sun angle is right, its rugged nature can be very dramatic.

When To See It

The Great Peninsula is so big that it takes about 3 days to become visible, from about 6 to 9 days after new moon. It stays visible with dramatically changing appearance through full moon, and then disappears between about 20 to 23 days after new.



Where It Is

Look for the Great Peninsula a little below and to the right of the center of the moon’s disk, surrounded by smooth, dark lunar seas to the left and right, and above it.

Why It’s Cool

The Great Peninsula features some very large craters with diameters of 50 to 100 miles. Many have central peaks or flat, lava-flooded floors. Craters jumbled on top of each other make it possible to judge relative ages—a crater inside another one or breaking the rim of another one must be younger than the one affected. The lava flow patterns on three sides of the peninsula show that the flows are younger than the peninsula itself, a fact emphasized by the ages of rocks brought back by Apollo astronauts. Around full moon the craters appear as bright spots and the rays from the crater Tycho become obvious, but otherwise at that time the Great Peninsula is nearly featureless.