



## International Moon Day 2023



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Sociedad Astronómica de Quintana Roo AC

CELEBRATES

INTERNATIONAL  
MOON DAY

JULY 20TH, 2023

STARGAZING

Kantenah, Q.Roo, México. Thursday, 8 pm.



#IMD2023

@stargazingrivieramaya

On the occasion of the **International Moon Day 2023**, the Astronomical Society of Quintana Roo, Mexico (*Sociedad Astronómica de Quintana Roo, A.C. – SAQROO AC*) held a Stargazing event and Lunar Observation based on this year's theme, "*Beginning the New Lunar Journey for Humanity*", as part of this year's IMD Global Event.

SAQROO AC has been igniting interest in Science and Technology among the general public since 2014, when it was founded with the aim to raise public awareness and develop outreach programmes connected to Astronomy and Space Sciences through educational, meaningful and fun activities. It's only natural that SAQROO AC supports and contributes to the promotion of this special date.



*Stargazing. International Moon Day 2023 Credit: SAQROO AC*

The event took place in an area known as Kantenah, a beach setting 33.5 km south of Playa del Carmen and 34.5 km north of Tulum, in the state of Quintana Roo, Mexico, a suitable location for Stargazing due to the dark sky conditions and the anticipated interest from the public on account of the Prehispanic history and the amazing surrounding archaeological sites. There were approximately 50 participants, from different countries and backgrounds. In their own words, it was "*an extremely enriching experience*", "*very well organised and interesting*" and "*a lovely way to spend an evening*". The event was in part sponsored by Palladium Hotel Group.



*Conference. International Moon Day 2023 Credit: SAQROO AC*

This year's event consisted on:

**Stargazing** – Star walk guided by one of our Astronomy monitors. Led by a laser light, the participants focused on the sky and the celestial bodies visible at the time, pertinent stars, constellations and planets, connecting some of the elements, such as Venus, Scorpio and of course the Moon, to the rich cosmogonic Mayan heritage of our region.



*Laser and Telescope. International Moon Day 2023 Credit: SAQROO AC*

**Conference** – Presented by one of our monitors, the short conference addressed the topic of this year, “*Beginning the New Lunar Journey for Humanity*”. The speaker reminded the audience of the importance of this date, July 20<sup>th</sup>, when Neil Armstrong and “Buzz” Aldrin first stepped on the Moon in 1969, not only on behalf of the USA, but in the interest of humankind: “*one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind*”, and why this date was proclaimed as International Moon Day by the United Nations General Assembly to raise public awareness about sustainable Moon exploration and utilization. We talked about the return to the Moon, the next Artemis missions and how the private industry, with companies like SpaceX, is pushing forward creating new perspectives and opportunities for all humanity. A Starlink satellite flew over that night.



*Audience. International Moon Day 2023 Credit: SAQROO AC*

**Lunar Observation** – The participants had then the opportunity to observe the Moon through a powerful 8-inch Meade telescope and take a photograph with their cell phones. The Moon



was illuminated at 8%, 20 degrees west above the horizon, between Mars and Venus. The most heard expression among the crowd was: “Wow!”.



*Lunar Observation. International Moon Day 2023 Credit: SAQROO AC*



*Moon and Planets. International Moon Day 2023 Credit: Stellarium*

This was a very interesting and enriching experience for the audience. Many questions emerged about the topic and so many conversations and lively discussions sparked between the members of the public. In our opinion, the event was useful to show the growing interest of the general public in the interests shared between all humanity, reflected in the return to the Moon and space exploration in general. This event turned out to be very inspirational for all the participants, it increased visibility on this year's theme and it will leave a permanent mark in their memories and ours, as we look forward to cooperating in future events.



*Moon. International Moon Day 2023 Credit: SAQROO AC*



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