

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

STAIRCASE TO THE MOON

What is the Staircase to the Moon?

It's a natural optical illusion where the full moon reflects off the exposed mudflats of Roebuck Bay | Yawuru Nagulagun at low tide, creating the appearance of a shimmering staircase ascending to the sky.

When does the Staircase to the Moon happen?

It occurs 2-3 nights each month, usually between March and October, typically during full moons when low tides coincide with moonrise.



Photo:Richard Young Photography

What dates does Staircase to the Moon occur?

View the dates and times for Staircase to the Moon online >

<https://www.visitbroome.com.au/info/staircase-to-the-moon-dates>

You can also download our yearly dates pdf from the link above.

Is it free to see?

Yes! Viewing is completely free to view from public spaces such as Town Beach in Broome and selected east-facing venues in town. You can bring a chair or picnic to Guwarri | Town Beach if you wish. View a the [google map location for Town Beach](#).

Can you see Staircase to the Moon from Cable Beach?

No, the Staircase to the Moon isn't visible from Cable Beach. It occurs on the opposite side of Broome at Town Beach, east facing over the bay, with the moon rising over the mudflats of Roebuck Bay. You can also view further north at Cygnet Bay from an east facing location.

What should I wear and bring?

Dress warmly, even tropical nights can feel chilly once the sun sets. To make your evening enjoyable, bring along a camp chair or picnic rug, water bottle, insect repellent, light jacket or jumper, camera and any photography gear and a torch. BYO snacks or takeaway on the nights when the market is not on. Bring extra cash to purchase from local food vans on market dates. Market nights are usually busier, so come along early to grab a spot!

How should I get there and how early?

Learn about local bus services [here](#). You can book a [taxi](#) or [hire a car](#) locally. Arrive early (at least an hour before moonrise) to secure a good viewing spot at Town Beach. If viewing from Roebuck Bay facing venues, you may need to secure a reservation.

Are there any events or markets during Staircase to the Moon?

Yes. The Staircase to the Moon Night Markets run at Guwarri - Town Beach from 4pm to 8pm **on selected dates** during Staircase to the Moon and feature local food, handmade goods, music and entertainment. View Staircase Night Market dates here >

<https://www.visitbroome.com.au/info/staircase-to-the-moon-dates> View a [Google map](#) of the location.

Can I photograph it easily?

es, but use a tripod, manual settings and a telephoto lens for best results. It can be quite tricky capturing this phenomenon on camera. A good camera can capture the moon's details and the reflection on the mudflats. Many visitors capture fantastic images from their phone camera too! We love to share our visitor's photos and reels. The "perfect" staircase depends on tide timing + moonrise alignment. Even the best location won't deliver if the tide isn't low enough, so always check the dates/times before choosing your spot.

What are the social media tags for Visit Broome?

Please tag [@visitbroome](#) or [#visitbroome](#) in your social media posts and reels, for your chance to appear on our Visit Broome [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) channels. We love sharing your captures!

What is Fusion Moonrise?

The Fusion Moonrise occurs twice per year and is natural-artistic spectacle when the full moon aligns perfectly above the **Fusion – "Interwoven Cultures"** sculpture at the roundabout of Napier Terrace and Carnarvon Street in Chinatown, Broome. The Shire of Broome usually close off the road ahead of time, to allow visitors to see the alignment of the moon above the sculpture. Bring a picnic, your camera, or simply enjoy the atmosphere.



Photo: Shire of Broome

When is the next Fusion Moonrise event?

Dates are promoted on the [Shire of Broome website](#) or the [visitbroome.com.au calendar of events](#). The event is a free, family-friendly celebration in Broome's vibrant Chinatown precinct under the stars. No bookings are required. Attendees are encouraged to arrive early to secure a good viewing spot and to walk, cycle or use public transport where possible due to temporary road closures.

Is it affected by weather or cloud cover?

Yes. Clouds or rain can obscure the moon or ruin reflections, so clear nights are essential for visibility. Ideal viewing conditions require a clear or mostly clear sky. Dust, smoke, or humidity in the air can distort or dim the reflection. Check the current weather forecast [here](#).

Why are the Roebuck Bay tides important?

Roebuck Bay experiences a macro-tidal regime, being a coastal area where the tidal range (the difference in height between high and low tide) is relatively large, with an average tidal range of 5.7m, ranging from around 1m during neap tides up to 10.5m at the highest spring tides. The extreme tidal range underpins the famous Staircase to the Moon when a low spring tide aligns with moonrise. Learn more about [Broome's tides](#).

What else is happening in Broome around this time?

For more local events happening around Staircase to the Moon each month, view our online event calendar > <https://www.visitbroome.com.au/events>

Are other experiences and local tours available in Broome around this time?

Yes, you can search by your preferred date for tours and experiences bookable online > <https://www.visitbroome.com.au/tours> or reach out to us for some suggestions.

Where should I stay?

Most accommodation in Broome is a reasonable driving or walking distance from Town Beach. For advice and personalised suggestions, get in touch with the Broome Visitor Centre by phone [08 9195 2200](tel:0891952200) or email enquiries@visitbroome.com.au

You can also book local stays online > <https://www.visitbroome.com.au/stay>