

A MOONBOW NIGHT AT CUMBERLAND FALLS

THE ONE-PAGE GUIDE · KYMOONBOW.COM · CUMBERLAND FALLS STATE RESORT PARK, CORBIN, KENTUCKY

WHAT IT IS

A rainbow made by moonlight. The full moon rises behind the Falls Overlook, its light hits the mist thrown up by the 68-foot falls, and a pale arc appears over the gorge. Cumberland Falls is the only place in the Western Hemisphere where this happens on a schedule; Niagara had one until the city lights drowned it.

WHEN TO GO

The night of the full moon and about two nights either side, once the sky is fully dark (about two hours after sunset) until roughly 2 AM. Clear sky is essential. A high river helps: after a good rain the mist is thicker and the bow is brighter. Late winter and spring have the biggest water; late summer and fall have the clearest skies.

SEEING IT

It looks **white** to the eye, not colored; the colors show up in long-exposure photos. Give your eyes ten minutes in the dark before you decide it isn't there, and keep your phone in your pocket. The Falls Overlook by the visitor center is the classic spot, with parking. Stand with the moon at your back. Use a red light or no light; every white flashlight costs everyone on the overlook their night vision.

SHOOTING IT

iPhone: Night mode comes on by itself; tap the moon icon and drag the slider to the longest time it offers (10–30 s on a tripod or railing, 3–5 s handheld). **Android:** Night Sight or Pro mode, ISO 800–1600, shutter 4–15 s. Brace the phone on the rail. Expect the photo to be more colorful than what you saw. Both are real.

THE NEXT TWELVE WINDOWS

MONTH	FULL MOON	VIEWING NIGHTS	MOONRISE
September	Sat, Sep 26	Sep 24 – Sep 28	7:13 PM
October	Mon, Oct 26	Oct 24 – Oct 28	6:44 PM
November	Tue, Nov 24	Nov 22 – Nov 26	5:06 PM
December	Wed, Dec 23	Dec 21 – Dec 25	4:54 PM
January	Fri, Jan 22	Jan 20 – Jan 24	6:16 PM
February	Sat, Feb 20	Feb 18 – Feb 22	6:25 PM
March	Mon, Mar 22	Mar 20 – Mar 24	8:34 PM
April	Tue, Apr 20	Apr 18 – Apr 22	8:33 PM
May	Thu, May 20	May 18 – May 22	9:32 PM
June	Fri, Jun 18	Jun 16 – Jun 20	9:13 PM
July	Sun, Jul 18	Jul 16 – Jul 20	9:10 PM
August	Tue, Aug 17	Aug 15 – Aug 19	8:33 PM
September	Wed, Sep 15	Sep 13 – Sep 17	7:22 PM

Kentucky State Parks publishes official moonbow dates and sets overlook hours; check the park before you drive. Times are Eastern.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE HOUSE

90–100	Go. Now.
70–89	Worth the drive.
40–69	Coin flip; check again at dinner.
15–39	Doubtful.
0–14	Absolutely not. There is no moon.

kymoonbow.com scores every night 0–100 from the moon's position, the cloud forecast, and the river gauge, updated hourly. It will also tell you when to leave, and email you the afternoon before a good night if you sign up.

BRING

A blanket or chair, a red headlamp, something warm even in summer (the gorge is cooler than the parking lot), snacks, patience.



KYMOONBOW.COM

Will there be a moonbow tonight? Live score, hour-by-hour forecast, 76 years of data, and a place to report what you saw. A scientific instrument of questionable necessity. Not affiliated with Kentucky State Parks.