

Get ready for a close encounter: A large asteroid will come TEN times nearer to Earth than the moon today

Asteroid will come within a distance of 24,800 miles (40,000 km)

The 32ft-long asteroid will pass by Earth today at 18:12 BST (13:12 ET)

A huge 200-foot asteroid is also set to pass us by on 17 September

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An asteroid will pass extremely near our planet today.

The 32ft (10 metre) long asteroid will pass by at a distance of one tenth of the distance between Earth and the moon.

This close encounter will be followed by a much larger asteroid, 200ft (61 metres) long, that is set to pass us by in just a few days.



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An asteroid will pass extremely near our planet today. The 32-foot (10 metre) long asteroid will pass by at a distance of one tenth of the distance between Earth and the moon

According to the Virtual Telescope project the asteroid, named 2016 RB1, 'will make an exceptionally close encounter with our home planet.'

At the flyby time, 18:12 BST or 13:12 ET, the asteroid will be at about 24,800 miles (40,000 km) from the Earth's surface.

For comparison, the average distance to the moon is 239,000 miles (384,000 km), which means the asteroid will pass at a tenth of that distance.

The Virtual Telescope project discovered the asteroid yesterday, and says when it passes Earth the asteroid will be visible from the southern hemisphere only.

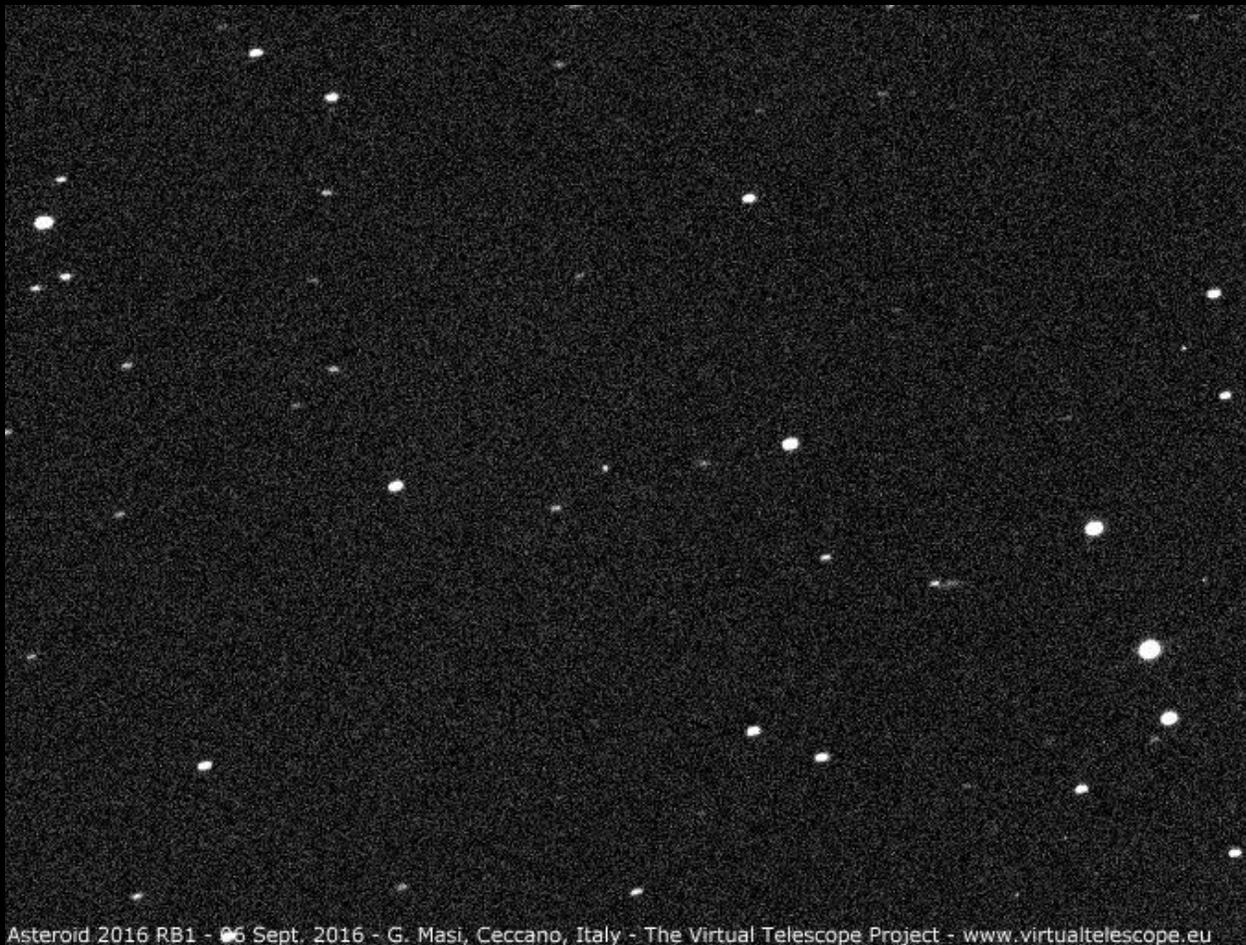
The Virtual Telescope captured photographs of the asteroid.

But this is not the only close encounter we should expect this week.

According to a Nasa database another, much larger, asteroid is also set to sweep past us today - one that could cause 'devastation' if it hit our planet.



According to the Virtual Telescope project the asteroid, named 2016 RB1, 'will make an exceptionally close encounter with our home planet.' When the asteroid passes Earth the asteroid will be visible from the southern hemisphere only



Asteroid 2016 RB1 - 06 Sept. 2016 - G. Masi, Ceccano, Italy - The Virtual Telescope Project - www.virtualtelescope.eu

The huge asteroid could be up to a mile long (1.6km). But luckily the giant will pass at a safe distance of 7.3 million miles.

According to Space.com, an asteroid would need to be of larger than 0.6 miles wide (1 km) to have the force to wipe out humanity.

Another huge asteroid will come hurtling towards Earth next week, and will sweep by more closely.

The space rock is predicted to whistle past our planet at 31,000 miles (50,000km) per hour, on September 17.

Nasa is not certain of the time of the pass due to relying on estimated calculations, and could be up to 16 minutes out on the estimated flyby.



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The space rock will pass within 24,800 miles (40,000 km) of Earth. For comparison, the average distance to the moon is 239,000 miles (384,000 km)

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