

# The Evening Sky Map

FREE\* EACH MONTH FOR YOU TO EXPLORE, LEARN & ENJOY THE NIGHT SKY

## Sky Calendar – October 2018

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- 2 **Last Quarter Moon** at 9:46 UT.
- 3 **Moon near Castor** (morning sky) at 7h UT.
- 3 **Moon near Pollux** (morning sky) at 11h UT.
- 4 **Moon near Beehive cluster M44** (morning sky) at 10h UT.
- 5 **Moon at perigee** (closest to Earth) at 22:31 UT (366,392 km; angular size 32.6').
- 5 **Moon near Regulus** (morning sky) at 23h UT.
- 9 **New Moon** at 3:47 UT. Start of lunation 1185.
- 10 **Moon near Venus** (evening sky) at 22h UT. Mag. -4.4.
- 11 **Moon near Jupiter** (evening sky) at 23h UT. Mag. -1.8.
- 13 **Moon near Antares** (evening sky) at 6h UT.
- 15 **Moon near Saturn** (evening sky) at 3h UT. Mag. 0.5.
- 16 **First Quarter Moon** at 18:01 UT.
- 17 **Moon at apogee** (farthest from Earth) at 19h UT (distance 404,227 km; angular size 29.6').
- 18 **Moon near Mars** (evening sky) at 12h UT. Mag. -0.9.
- 21 **Orionid meteor shower peaks.** Arises from the debris field of Comet Halley. Active from October 2 to November 7. Produces very fast (66 km/sec), generally faint meteors (20 per hour). Radiant located near Orion's club asterism. Observe after midnight on night of 21/22.
- 24 **Full Moon** at 16:46 UT.
- 26 **Venus at inferior conjunction** with the Sun at 14h UT. The brightest planet passes into the morning sky.
- 26 **Moon near the Pleiades** (morning sky) at 21h UT.
- 27 **Moon near Aldebaran** (morning sky) at 13h UT.
- 29 **Mercury 3.1° SSW of Jupiter** (22° from Sun, evening sky) at 7h UT. Mags. -0.2 and -1.7.
- 30 **Moon near Castor** (morning sky) at 12h UT.
- 30 **Moon near Pollux** (morning sky) at 17h UT.
- 31 **Moon near Beehive cluster M44** (morning sky) at 16h UT.
- 31 **Last Quarter Moon** at 16:41 UT.
- 31 **Moon at perigee** (closest to Earth) at 20:24 UT (370,204 km; angular size 32.3').

**More sky events and links at <http://Skymaps.com/skycalendar/>**  
 All times in Universal Time (UT). (Singapore Standard Time = UT + 8 hours.)



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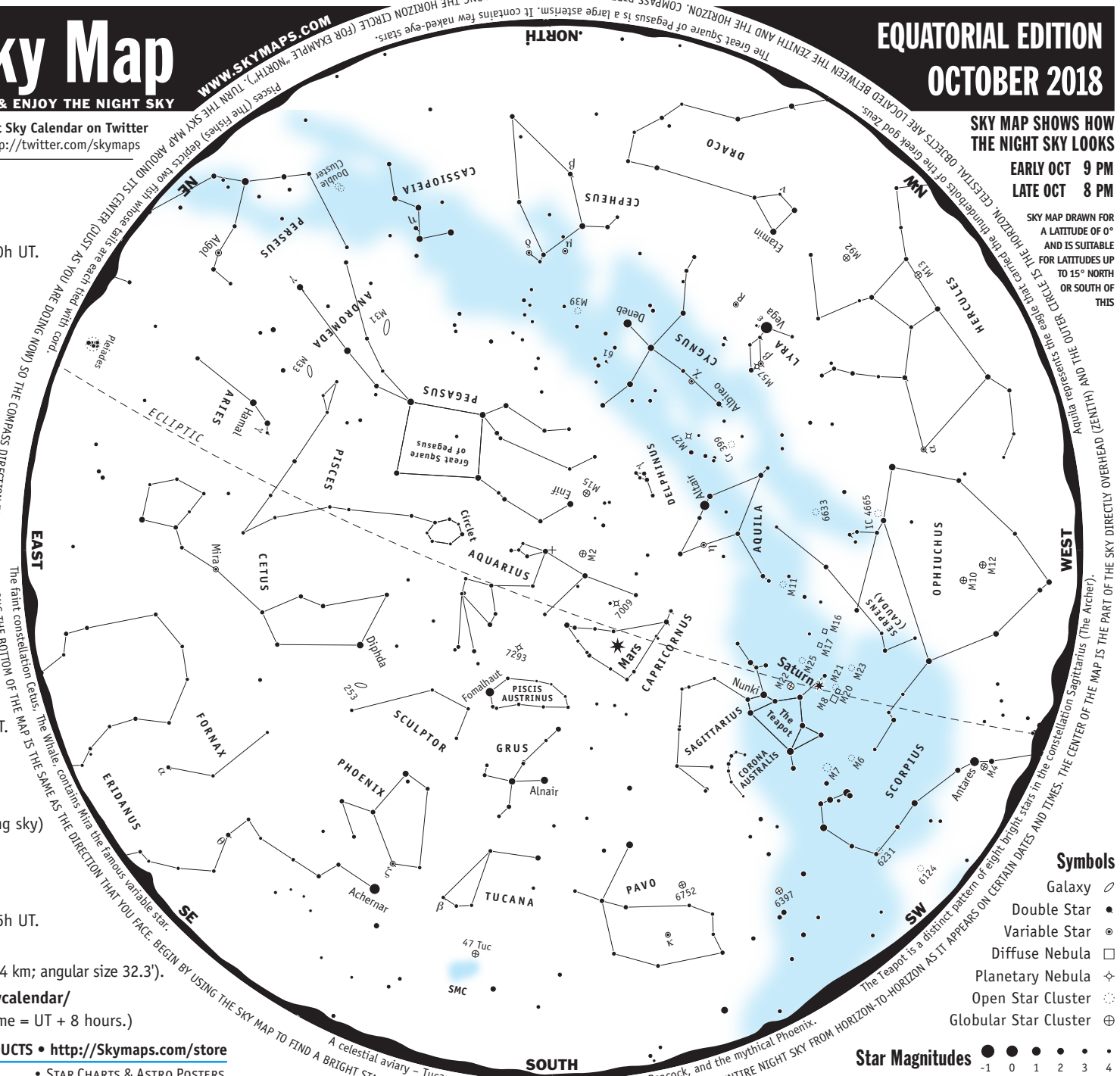
- STAR ATLASES & PLANISPHERES
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- All sales support the production and free distribution of The Evening Sky Map.

**EQUATORIAL EDITION**  
**OCTOBER 2018**

**SKY MAP SHOWS HOW THE NIGHT SKY LOOKS**

**EARLY OCT 9 PM**  
**LATE OCT 8 PM**

SKY MAP DRAWN FOR A LATITUDE OF 0° AND IS SUITABLE FOR LATITUDES UP TO 15° NORTH OR SOUTH OF THIS



- Symbols**
- Galaxy ☾
  - Double Star ●●
  - Variable Star ⊙
  - Diffuse Nebula □
  - Planetary Nebula ⋄
  - Open Star Cluster ☉
  - Global Star Cluster ⊕

**Star Magnitudes** ●●●●●  
 -1 0 1 2 3 4

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**INSTRUCTIONS:** THE SKY MAP SHOWS THE ENTIRE NIGHT SKY FROM HORIZON-TO-HORIZON AS IT APPEARS ON CERTAIN DATES AND TIMES.

A celestial aviary – Tucana the Toucan, Grus the Crane, Pavo the Peacock, and the mythical Phoenix.  
 The Teapot is a distinct pattern of eight bright stars in the constellation Sagittarius (The Archer).  
 The faint constellation in the center of the map is the same as the direction that you face. Begin by using the sky map to find a bright star pattern in the sky.

## About the Celestial Objects

Listed on this page are several of the brighter, more interesting celestial objects visible in the evening sky this month (refer to the monthly sky map). The objects are grouped into three categories. Those that can be easily seen with the naked eye (that is, without optical aid), those easily seen with binoculars, and those requiring a telescope to be appreciated. **Note, all of the objects (except single stars) will appear more impressive when viewed through a telescope or very large binoculars.** They are grouped in this way to highlight objects that can be seen using the optical equipment that may be available to the star gazer.

## Tips for Observing the Night Sky

When observing the night sky, and in particular deep-sky objects such as star clusters, nebulae, and galaxies, it's always best to observe from a dark location. Avoid direct light from street lights and other sources. If possible observe from a dark location away from the light pollution that surrounds many of today's large cities.

You will see more stars after your eyes adapt to the darkness—usually about 10 to 20 minutes after you go outside. Also, if you need to use a torch to view the sky map, cover the light bulb with red cellophane. This will preserve your dark vision.

Finally, even though the Moon is one of the most stunning objects to view through a telescope, its light is so bright that it brightens the sky and makes many of the fainter objects very difficult to see. So try to observe the evening sky on moonless nights around either New Moon or Last Quarter.

## Astronomical Glossary

**Conjunction** – An alignment of two celestial bodies such that they present the least angular separation as viewed from Earth.

**Constellation** – A defined area of the sky containing a star pattern.

**Diffuse Nebula** – A cloud of gas illuminated by nearby stars.

**Double Star** – Two stars that appear close to each other in the sky; either linked by gravity so that they orbit each other (binary star) or lying at different distances from Earth (optical double). Apparent separation of stars is given in seconds of arc (").

**Ecliptic** – The path of the Sun's center on the celestial sphere as seen from Earth.

**Elongation** – The angular separation of two celestial bodies. For Mercury and Venus the greatest elongation occurs when they are at their most angular distance from the Sun as viewed from Earth.

**Galaxy** – A mass of up to several billion stars held together by gravity.

**Globular Star Cluster** – A ball-shaped group of several thousand old stars.

**Light Year (ly)** – The distance a beam of light travels at 300,000 km/sec in one year.

**Magnitude** – The brightness of a celestial object as it appears in the sky.

**Open Star Cluster** – A group of tens or hundreds of relatively young stars.

**Opposition** – When a celestial body is opposite the Sun in the sky.

**Planetary Nebula** – The remnants of a shell of gas blown off by a star.

**Universal Time (UT)** – A time system used by astronomers. Also known as Greenwich Mean Time. Singapore Standard Time is UT plus 8 hours.

**Variable Star** – A star that changes brightness over a period of time.

EQUATORIAL EDITION  
OCTOBER 2018

CELESTIAL OBJECTS

Sky maps.com

## Easily Seen with the Naked Eye

|           |     |   |   |
|-----------|-----|---|---|
| Altair    | Aql | • | Brightest star in Aquila. Name means "the flying eagle". Dist=16.8 ly.                      |
| δ Cephei  | Cep | • | Cepheid prototype. Mag varies between 3.5 & 4.4 over 5.366 days. Mag 6 companion.           |
| Deneb     | Cyg | • | Brightest star in Cygnus. One of the greatest known supergiants. Dist=1,400±200 ly.         |
| Achernar  | Eri | • | Brightest star in Eridanus, The River. Arabic name meaning "end of river". Dist=144 ly.     |
| Vega      | Lyr | • | The 5th brightest star in the sky. A blue-white star. Dist=25.0 ly.                         |
| Algol     | Per | • | Famous eclipsing binary star. Magnitude varies between 2.1 & 3.4 over 2.867 days.           |
| Fomalhaut | PsA | • | Brightest star in Piscis Austrinus. In Arabic the "fish's mouth". Dist=25 ly.               |
| Pleiades  | Tau | • | The Seven Sisters. Spectacular cluster. Many more stars visible in binoculars. Dist=399 ly. |

## Easily Seen with Binoculars

|                |     |   |  |
|----------------|-----|---|--|
| M31            | And | ♁ | The Andromeda Galaxy. Most distant object visible to naked eye. Dist=2.5 million ly.       |
| M2             | Aqr | • | Resembles a fuzzy star in binoculars.  |
| η Aquilae      | Aql | • | Bright Cepheid variable. Mag varies between 3.6 & 4.5 over 7.166 days. Dist=1,200 ly.      |
| 6397           | Ara | • | Thought to be the nearest globular. Dist=7,000 ly.   |
| μ Cephei       | Cep | • | Herschel's Garnet Star. One of the reddest stars. Mag 3.4 to 5.1 over 730 days.            |
| Mira           | Cet | • | Famous long period variable star. Mag varies between 3.0 & 10.1 over 332 days.             |
| χ Cygni        | Cyg | • | Long period pulsating red giant. Magnitude varies between 3.3 & 14.2 over 407 days.        |
| M39            | Cyg | • | May be visible to the naked eye under good conditions. Dist=900 ly.                        |
| ε Lyrae        | Lyr | • | Famous Double Double. Binoculars show a double star. High power reveals each a double.     |
| R Lyrae        | Lyr | • | Semi-regular variable. Magnitude varies between 3.9 & 5.0 over 46.0 days.                  |
| IC 4665        | Oph | • | Large, scattered open cluster. Visible with binoculars.                                    |
| 6633           | Oph | • | Scattered open cluster. Visible with binoculars.   |
| κ Pavonis      | Pav | • | Cepheid-type. Magnitude varies between 3.9 & 4.8 over 9.088 days.                          |
| 6752           | Pav | • | One of the better globular star clusters in the sky. Dist=14,000 ly.                       |
| M15            | Peg | • | Only globular known to contain a planetary nebula (Mag 14, d=1"). Dist=30,000 ly.          |
| Double Cluster | Per | • | Double Cluster in Perseus. NGC 869 & 884. Excellent in binoculars. Dist=7,300 ly.          |
| ζ Phoenicis    | Phe | • | Eclipsing binary star and double (mag 8). Varies between 3.9 & 4.4 over 1.667 days.        |
| M8             | Sgr | • | Lagoon Nebula. Bright nebula bisected by a dark lane. Dist=5,200 ly.                       |
| M25            | Sgr | • | Bright cluster located about 6 deg N of "teapot's" lid. Dist=1,900 ly.                     |
| M22            | Sgr | • | A spectacular globular star cluster. Telescope will show stars. Dist=10,000 ly.            |
| M6             | Sco | • | Butterfly Cluster. 30+ stars in 7x binoculars. Dist=1,960 ly.                              |
| M7             | Sco | • | Superb open cluster. Visible to the naked eye. Age=260 million years. Dist=780 ly.         |
| 253            | Scl | ♁ | Fine, large, cigar-shaped galaxy. Requires dark sky. Member of Sculptor Group.             |
| 47 Tucanae     | Tuc | • | Spectacular object. Telescope will reveal stars. Near edge of SMC. Dist=15,000 ly.         |
| β Tucanae      | Tuc | • | Complex multiple star. Binoculars show one pair. Telescope required to split primary star. |
| SMC            | Tuc | ♁ | Small Magellanic Cloud. Companion galaxy to Milky Way. Requires dark sky. Dist=210,000 ly. |
| Cr 399         | Vul | • | Coathanger asterism or "Brocchi's Cluster". Not a true star cluster. Dist=218 to 1,140 ly. |

## Telescopic Objects

|               |     |   |   |
|---------------|-----|---|---|
| γ Andromedae  | And | • | Attractive double star. Bright orange star with mag 5 blue companion. Sep=9.8".             |
| 7009          | Aqr | ♁ | Saturn Nebula. Requires 8-inch telescope to see Saturn-like appendages.                     |
| 7293          | Aqr | ♁ | Helix Nebula. Spans nearly 1/4 deg. Requires dark sky. Dist=300 ly.                         |
| γ Arietis     | Ari | • | Impressive looking double blue-white star. Visible in a small telescope. Sep=7.8".          |
| η Cassiopeiae | Cas | • | Yellow star mag 3.4 & orange star mag 7.5. Dist=19 ly. Orbit=480 years. Sep=12".            |
| Albireo       | Cyg | • | Beautiful double star. Contrasting colours of orange and blue-green. Sep=34.4".             |
| 61 Cygni      | Cyg | • | Attractive double star. Mags 5.2 & 6.1 orange dwarfs. Dist=11.4 ly. Sep=28.4".              |
| γ Delphini    | Del | • | Appear yellow & white. Mags 4.3 & 5.2. Dist=100 ly. Struve 2725 double in same field.       |
| β Lyrae       | Lyr | • | Eclipsing binary. Mag varies between 3.3 & 4.3 over 12.940 days. Fainter mag 7.2 blue star. |
| M57           | Lyr | ♁ | Ring Nebula. Magnificent object. Smoke-ring shape. Dist=4,100 ly.                           |
| M23           | Sgr | • | Elongated star cluster. Telescope required to show stars. Dist=2,100 ly.                    |
| M20           | Sgr | • | Trifid Nebula. A telescope shows 3 dust lanes trisecting nebula. Dist=5,200 ly.             |
| M21           | Sgr | • | A fine and impressive cluster. Dist=4,200 ly.   |
| M17           | Sgr | • | Omega Nebula. Contains the star cluster NGC 6618. Dist=4,900 ly.                            |
| M11           | Sct | • | Wild Duck Cluster. Resembles a globular through binoculars. V-shaped. Dist=5,600 ly.        |
| M16           | Ser | • | Eagle Nebula. Requires a telescope of large aperture. Dist=8,150 ly.                        |
| M33           | Tri | ♁ | Fine face-on spiral galaxy. Requires a large aperture telescope. Dist=2.3 million ly.       |
| M27           | Vul | ♁ | Dumbbell Nebula. Large, twin-lobed shape. Most spectacular planetary. Dist=975 ly.          |