The Evening Sky Map

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

SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE AUGUST 2017

SKY MAP SHOWS HOW THE NIGHT SKY LOOKS

EARLY AUG 8 PM
LATE AUG 7 PM

SKY MAP DRAWN FOR A LATITUDE OF 35° SOUTH AND IS SUITABLE FOR LATITUDES UP TO 15° NORTH OR SOUTH OF THIS

Sky Calendar – August 2017

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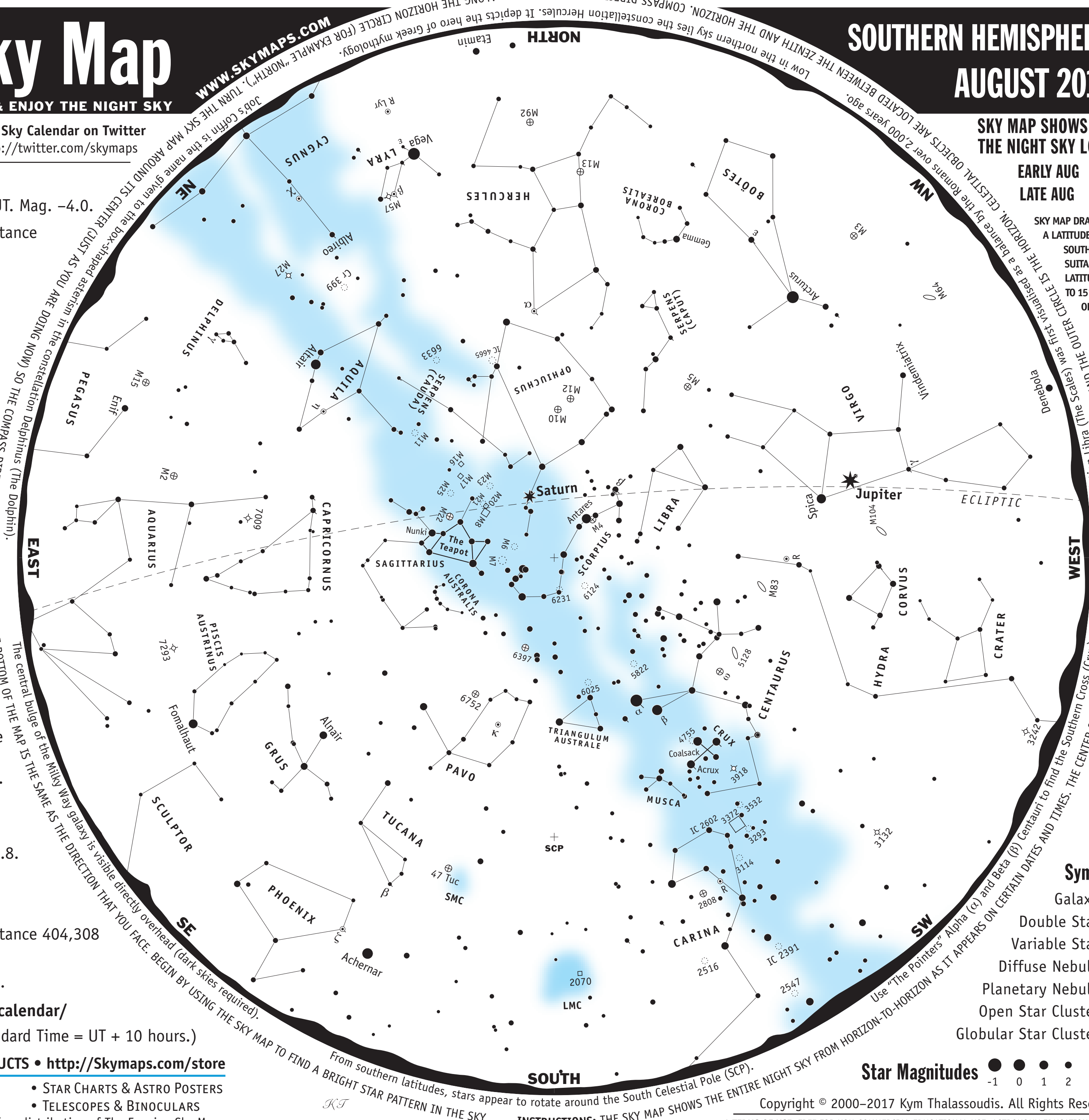
- 2 **Moon near Antares** (evening sky) at 9h UT.
- 2 **Venus 2.4° S of M35 cluster** (morning sky) at 15h UT. Mag. –4.0.
- 2 **Moon at apogee** (farthest from Earth) at 18h UT (distance 405,025 km; angular size 29.5').
- 3 **Moon near Saturn** (evening sky) at 8h UT. Mag. 0.3.
- 7 **Partial Eclipse of the Moon** from 17:23 to 19:18 UT, mid-eclipse at 18:20 UT. Visible from the Eastern Hemisphere including Australia, Indonesia and India.
- 7 **Full Moon** at 18:12 UT.
- 12 **Perseid meteor shower** peak lasts about 10 hours from 14h UT. Active from July 17 to August 24. Produces swift, bright meteors (50 to 100 per hour) many with persistent trains. Best viewing conditions occur after midnight. Moonlight interferes.
- 15 **Last Quarter Moon** at 1:16 UT.
- 15 **Moon near the Pleiades** (morning sky) at 15h UT.
- 16 **Moon near Aldebaran** (74° from Sun, morning sky) at 7h UT. Occultation visible from the Caribbean.
- 18 **Moon at perigee** (closest to Earth) at 13:16 UT (366,121 km; angular size 32.6').
- 19 **Moon near Venus** (morning sky) at 4h UT. Mag. –4.0.
- 20 **Moon near Beehive cluster** (morning sky) at 7h UT.
- 21 **Total Solar Eclipse** from 16:49 to 20:03 UT, greatest eclipse at 18:25 UT (duration 2m 40s). Totality visible along narrow, coast-to-coast path across USA. Partial eclipse in North America and northern South America. **NASA Eclipse website:** http://eclipse2017.nasa.gov
- 21 **New Moon** at 18:30 UT. Start of lunation 1171.
- 25 **Moon near Jupiter** (evening sky) at 15h UT. Mag. –1.8.
- 25 **Moon near Spica** (evening sky) at 21h UT.
- 29 **First Quarter Moon** at 8:13 UT.
- 30 **Moon at apogee** (farthest from Earth) at 11h UT (distance 404,308 km; angular size 29.6').
- 30 **Moon near Saturn** (evening sky) at 15h UT. Mag. 0.4.

More sky events and links at http://Skymaps.com/skycalendar/

All times in Universal Time (UT). (Australian Eastern Standard Time = UT + 10 hours.)



Symbols

- Galaxy
- Double Star
- Variable Star
- Diffuse Nebula
- Planetary Nebula
- Open Star Cluster
- Globular Star Cluster

Star Magnitudes -1 0 1 2 3 4

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- Star Atlases & Planispheres
- Books for Sky Watchers
- Star Charts & Astro Posters
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All sales support the production and free distribution of The Evening Sky Map.

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. Australian Eastern Standard Time (Sydney, Australia) is UT plus 10 hours.

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

SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE AUGUST 2017

CELESTIAL OBJECTS

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Easily Seen with the Naked Eye

Altair	Aql	●	Brightest star in Aquila. Name means "the flying eagle". Dist=16.7 ly.
Arcturus	Boo	●	Orange, giant K star. Name means "bear watcher". Dist=36.7 ly.
β Centauri	Cen	●	With Alpha Centauri, forms the so-called "Pointers-to-the-Cross". Dist=525 ly.
α Centauri	Cen	◖	Nearest bright star to Sun at 4.4 ly. Brilliant double star in a telescope. 80 year period.
Coalsack	Cru	◆	Most famous naked-eye dark nebula. Requires dark sky. Dist=600 ly.
Achernar	Eri	●	Brightest star in Eridanus, The River. Arabic name meaning "end of river". Dist=140 ly.
α Herculis	Her	◉	Semi-regular variable. Magnitude varies between 3.1 & 3.9 over 90 days. Mag 5.4 companion.
Vega	Lyr	●	The 5th brightest star in the sky. A blue-white star. Dist=25.0 ly.
Fomalhaut	PsA	●	Brightest star in Piscis Austrinus. In Arabic the "fish's mouth". Dist=25 ly.
Antares	Sco	●	Red, supergiant star. Name means "rival of Mars". Dist=135.9 ly.
Spica	Vir	●	Latin name means "ear of wheat" and shown held in Virgo's left hand. Dist=250 ly.

Easily Seen with 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.
IC 2602	Car	⁘	The "Five of Diamonds". Bright cluster twice diameter of full Moon. Dist=491 ly.
3372	Car	□	Eta Carinae Nebula. Enormous glowing cloud in rich star field. Dist=8,000 ly.
3532	Car	⁘	Herschel - "most brilliant cluster". 60+ stars in 7x binoculars. Dist=1,300 ly.
ω Centauri	Cen	⊕	Largest and brightest globular star cluster in sky. 1 million stars. Dist=17,000 ly.
4755	Cru	⁘	Jewel Box. Outstanding star cluster. Many contrasting colours. Dist=7,600 ly.
LMC	Dor	⬭	Large Magellanic Cloud. A neighbouring galaxy of the Milky Way. Dist=180,000 ly.
M13	Her	⊕	Best globular in northern skies. Discovered by Halley in 1714. Dist=23,000 ly.
R Hydrae	Hya	◉	Long period variable. Mag varies between 3.0 & 11.0 over 390 days. Brilliant red.
ε Lyrae	Lyr	◖	Famous Double Double. Binoculars show a double star. High power reveals each a double.
M12	Oph	⊕	Close to the brighter M10. Dist=18,000 ly.
M10	Oph	⊕	3 degrees from the fainter M12. Both may be glimpsed in binoculars. Dist=14,000 ly.
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.
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.
M4	Sco	⊕	A close globular. May just be visible without optical aid. Dist=7,000 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.
M5	Ser	⊕	Fine globular star cluster. Telescope will reveal individual stars. Dist=25,000 ly.
6025	TrA	⁘	A small open star cluster in Milky Way. Dist=2,700 ly.
47 Tucanae	Tuc	⊕	Spectacular object. Telescope will reveal stars. Near edge of SMC. Dist=15,000 ly.
SMC	Tuc	⬭	Small Magellanic Cloud. Companion galaxy to Milky Way. Requires dark sky. Dist=210,000 ly.

Telescopic Objects

7009	Aqr	✧	Saturn Nebula. Requires 8-inch telescope to see Saturn-like appendages.
3918	Cen	✧	The Blue Planetary. Visible in a small telescope as a round blue disk.
5128	Cen	⬭	Bisected by a wide obscuring lane. Strong radio source. Dist=14 million ly.
Albireo	Cyg	◖	Beautiful double star. Contrasting colours of orange and blue-green. Sep=34.4".
γ Delphini	Del	◖	Appear yellow & white. Mags 4.3 & 5.2. Dist=100 ly. Struve 2725 double in same field.
M83	Hya	⬭	Classic face-on spiral. Discovered in 1752 by Lacaille. In attractive star field.
5822	Lup	⁘	Large, attractive cluster. Dist=1,800 ly. Open cluster NGC 5823 to the south.
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.
6124	Sco	⁘	Contains 5 bright tightly packed stars near centre. 7 star chain. Dist=1,600 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.
M104	Vir	⬭	Sombrero Galaxy. Almost edge-on spiral galaxy. Protruding central core.
M27	Vul	✧	Dumbbell Nebula. Large, twin-lobed shape. Most spectacular planetary. Dist=975 ly.