

Sydney Observatory night sky map

A map for each month of the year, to help you learn about the night sky

August 2014

www.sydneyobservatory.com

This star chart shows the stars and constellations visible in the night sky for Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Canberra, Hobart, Adelaide and Perth for August 2014 at about 7:30 pm (local standard time). For Darwin and similar locations, the chart will still apply but some stars will be lost off the southern edge while extra stars will be visible to the north. Stars down to a brightness or magnitude limit of 4.5 are shown. To use this chart, rotate it so that the direction you are facing (north, south, east or west) is shown at the bottom. The centre of the chart represents the point directly above your head, called the zenith, and the outer circular edge represents the horizon.

Star brightness

- Zero or brighter
- 1st magnitude
- 2nd
- 3rd
- 4th

Moon phase

- First quarter: 04th
- Full moon: 11th
- Last quarter: 17th
- New moon: 26th

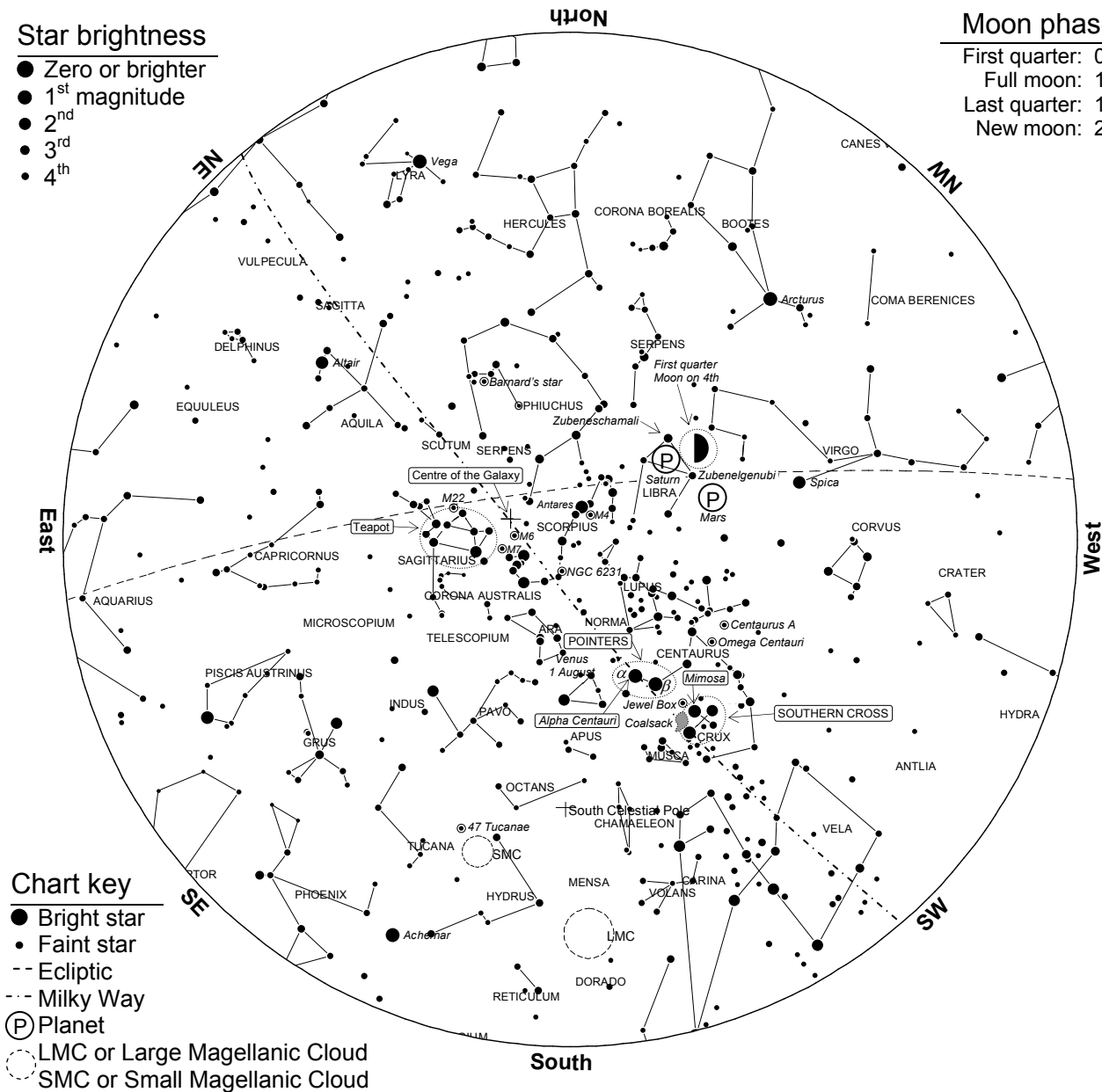


Chart key

- Bright star
- Faint star
- Ecliptic
- Milky Way
- Ⓟ Planet
- LMC or Large Magellanic Cloud
- SMC or Small Magellanic Cloud

Mars and Saturn are high in the sky in Libra, with the planets closest on the 25th and 26th. The best time to view the Moon with a small telescope or binoculars is a few days either side of the first quarter Moon on the 4th. High in the sky are the constellations Scorpius (the Scorpion) and Crux (the Southern Cross). The Southern Cross is easily located using the two nearby Pointer stars. The Pointer star Alpha Centauri is the nearest star system to the Sun. Near the end of the Scorpion's tail is the unofficial constellation of the Teapot in Sagittarius.



Sydney Observatory, with a magnificent view overlooking Sydney Harbour, is open 10am to 5pm daily – except closed Good Friday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day, and open 10am to noon on New Year's Eve. Open Monday to Saturday for night sessions (times vary depending on the season) for sky viewing through one of our telescopes (cosy planetarium session if cloudy), and 3D movies about the Universe. Bookings are essential for night programs.

For more information, check the website at www.sydneyobservatory.com or call (02) 9921 3485. Sydney Observatory is at Watson Road, Observatory Hill, in the historic Rocks area of Sydney.