

Sydney Observatory night sky map

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

January 2015

www.sydneysydneyobservatory.com.au

This star chart shows the stars and constellations visible in the night sky for Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Hobart and Adelaide for January 2015 at about 8:30 pm (summer time) and at about 7:30 pm (local standard time) for Perth and Brisbane. 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 star 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 point, and the outer circular edge represents the horizon.

Star Brightness

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

Moon Phase

- Full Moon: 05th
- Last quarter: 13th
- New Moon: 21st
- First quarter: 27th

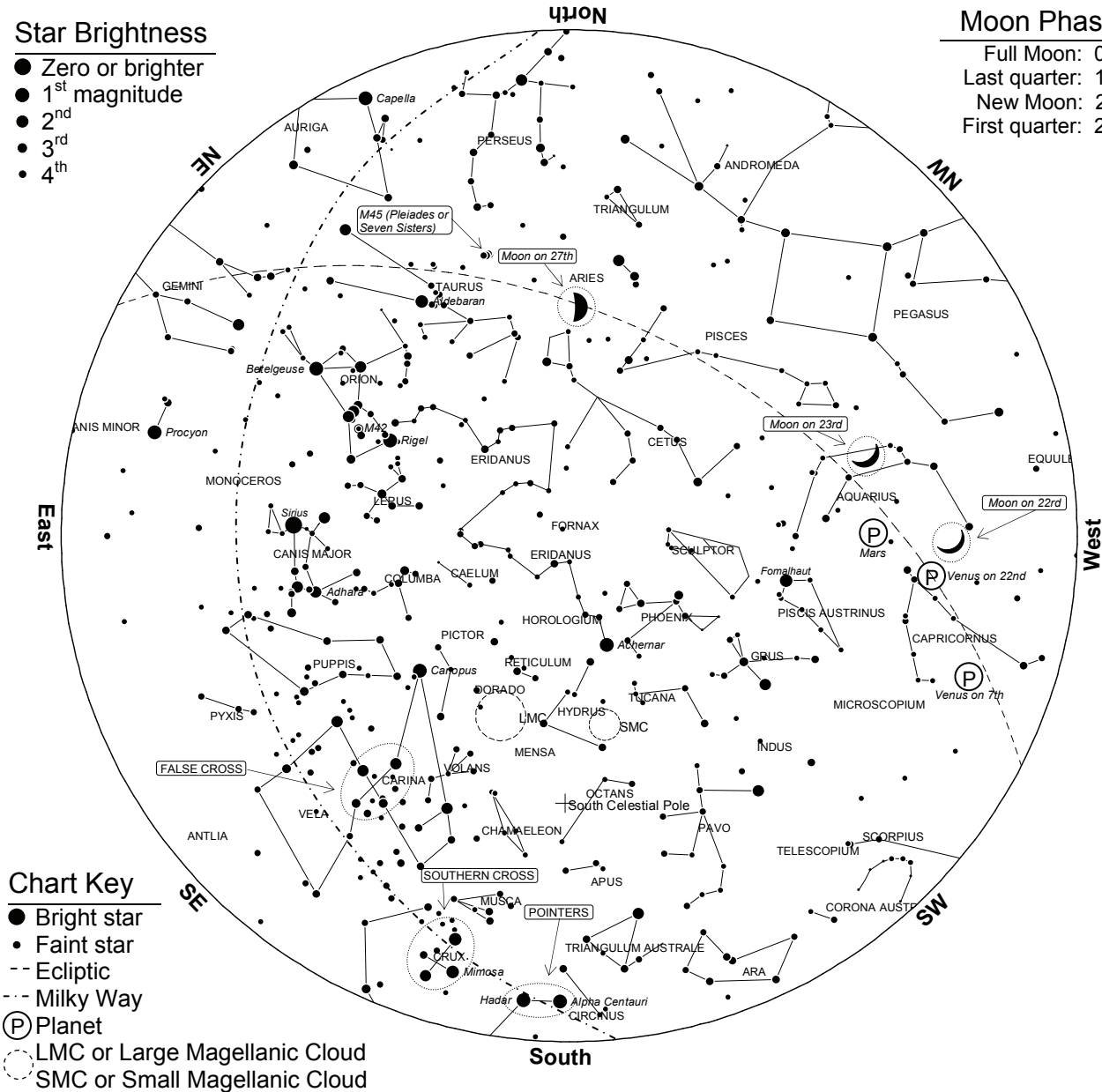
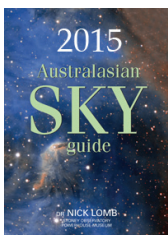


Chart Key

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

Mars is visible low in the west in Aquarius. Early in the evening Venus can be seen low in the west as the bright evening star. On the 22nd a thin crescent Moon is located near Venus, while the next evening it has moved close to Mars. The best time to view the Moon using binoculars or a small telescope is a few days either side of the first quarter Moon on the 27th. The two brightest stars in the night sky can also be seen; Sirius in the constellation Canis Major is the brightest star followed by the star Canopus in Carina. Crux (the Southern Cross) is low in the south and can be difficult to find.



2015 Australasian sky guide book

The 2015 Australasian sky guide has details on the sky for the whole year, including rise and set times for the Sun, Moon and planets, and tidal information for Sydney. Available from Sydney Observatory, the Powerhouse Museum and good bookshops (RRP \$16.95); also via mail order (postal charges apply) at www.powerhousemuseum.com/publications/

Daily activities at Sydney Observatory

Sydney Observatory is open for night and day visits every day except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Good Friday. Programs include telescope viewings, 3D space theatre and Sydney Planetarium sessions. Bookings are essential for night telescope viewing. Watson Road, Observatory Hill, The Rocks. www.sydneysydneyobservatory.com.au Ph (02) 9921 3485