

Sydney Observatory night sky map

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

February 2015

www.sydneysydneyobservatory.com.au

The star chart shows the stars and constellations visible in the night sky for Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Hobart and Adelaide for February 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 on the star chart. To use this star chart, rotate the chart 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:	4th
Last quarter:	12th
New Moon:	19th
First quarter:	26th

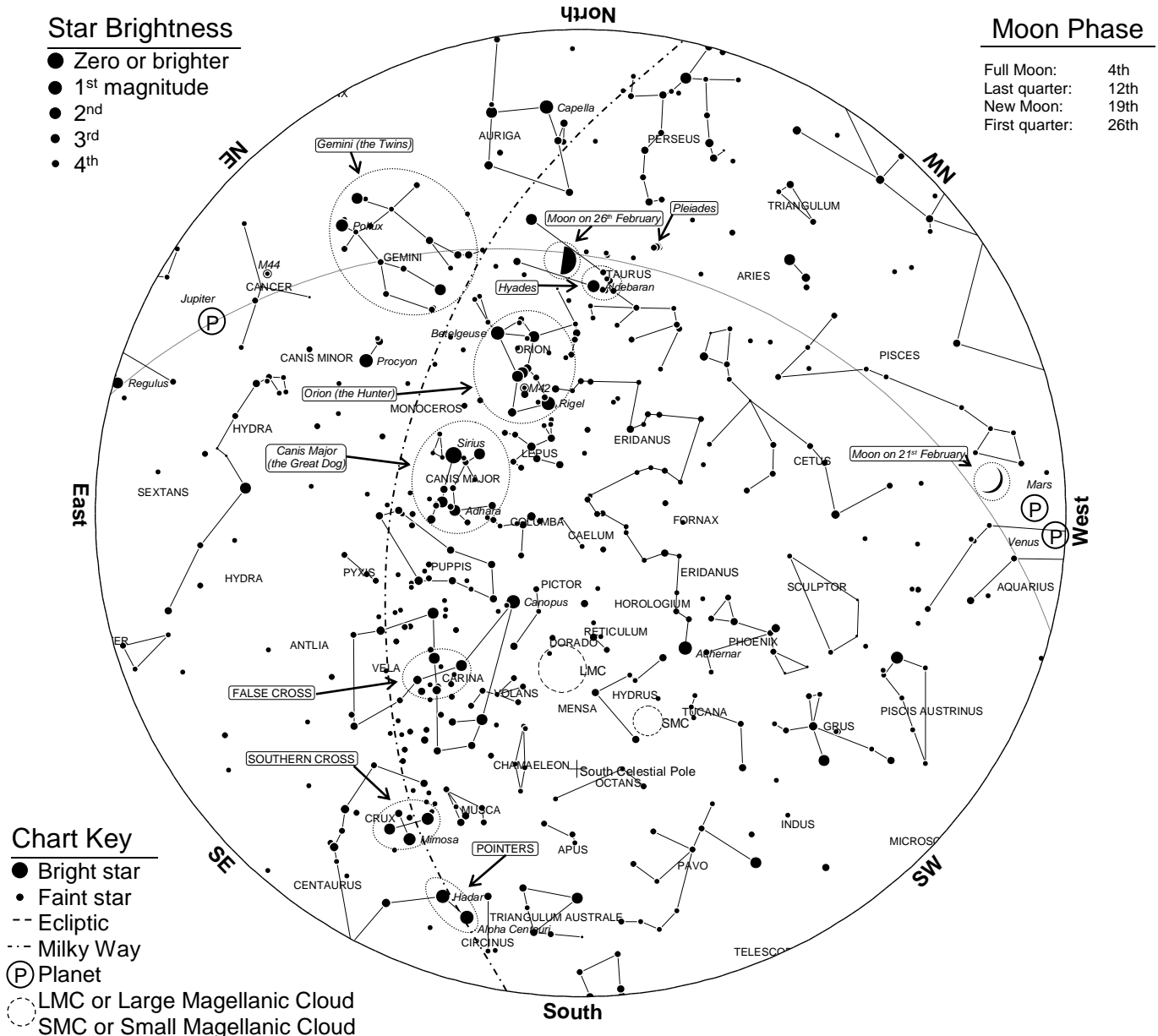


Chart Key

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

Low in the east is Jupiter, visible as a bright star-like object in Cancer. Venus and Mars are low in the west, with Venus passing very close by Mars on the 22nd. The crescent Moon will also be close to Venus and Mars on the 21st. 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 26th. Also visible in the sky are the constellations Canis Major (the Great Dog), Orion (the Hunter) and Gemini (the Twins). Crux (the Southern Cross) remains low in the south east.



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.sydneysydneyobservatory.com.au or call (02) 9921 3485. Sydney Observatory is at 1003 Upper Fort Street, Observatory Hill, in the historic Rocks area of Sydney.