

Sydney Observatory night sky map

March 2015

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

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 March 2015 at about 9 pm (summer time) and at about 8 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: 06th
- Last quarter: 14th
- New Moon: 20th
- First quarter: 27th

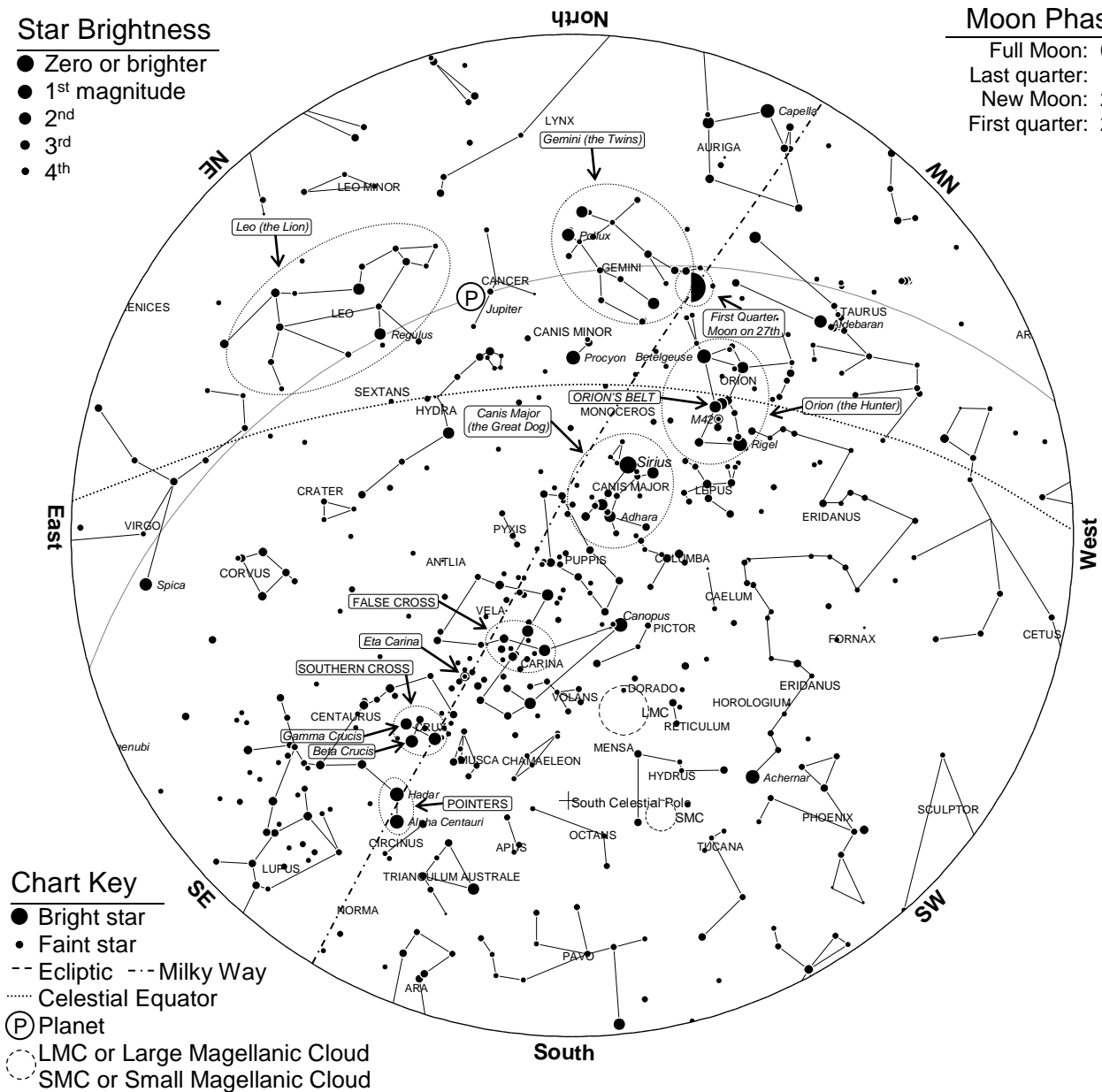


Chart Key

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

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 27th. Jupiter can be seen towards the north during the evening and will be near the Moon on the 3rd and 30th. The Autumn Equinox occurs on the 21st. The word equinox is Latin meaning equal night, and is one of two days (usually 21 March and 21 September) when the Sun spends an equal amount of time above and below the horizon for every place on Earth. Constellations visible this month include Canis Major (the Great Dog), Orion (the Hunter), Gemini (the Twins) and Leo (the Lion). Crux (the Southern Cross) is low in the south east and is located just above the two bright pointer stars.



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.