

# Sydney Observatory night sky map

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

# December 2009

[www.sydneyobservatory.com.au](http://www.sydneyobservatory.com.au)

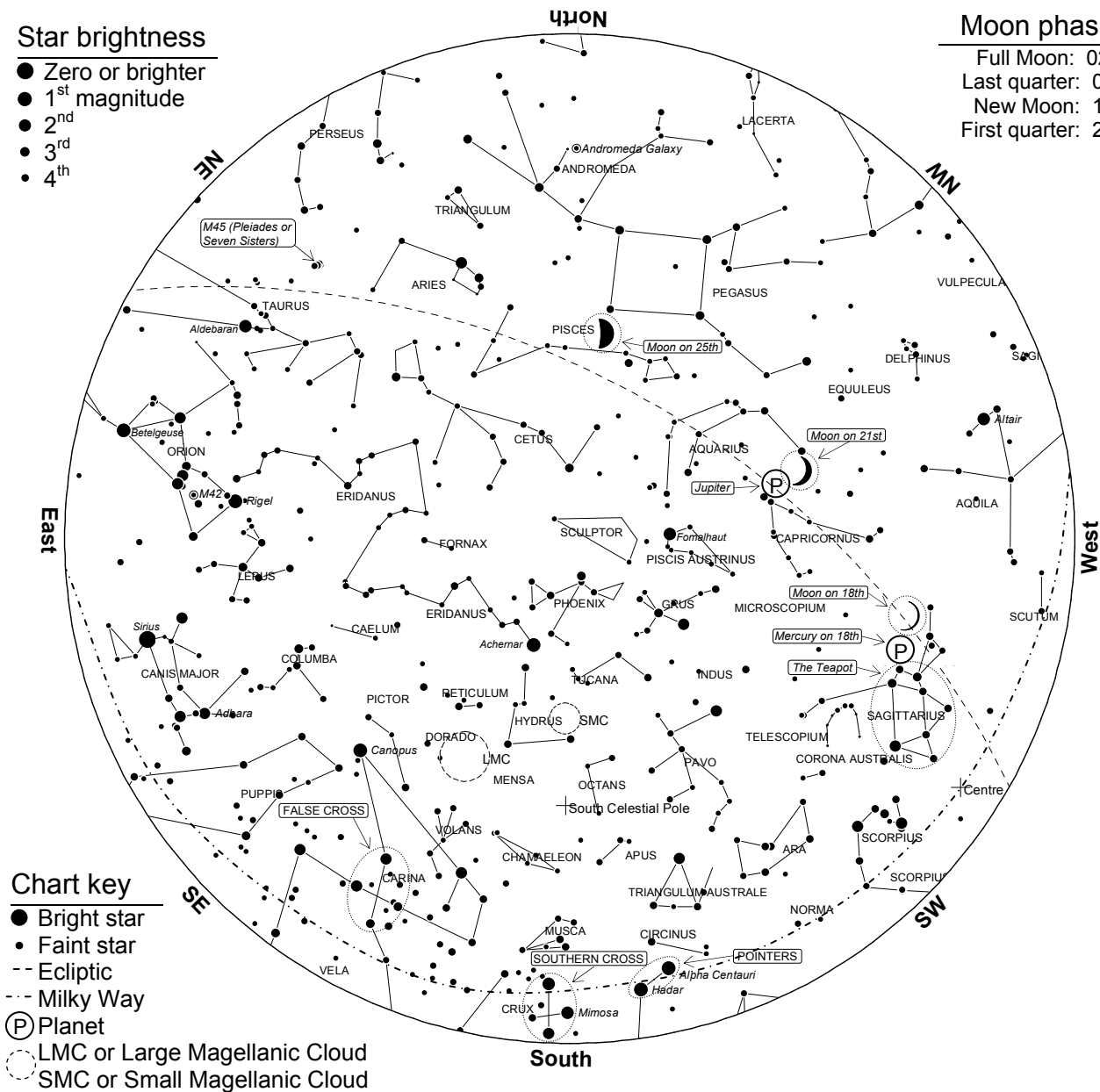
The star chart shows the stars and constellations visible in the night sky for Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Canberra, Hobart, Adelaide and Perth for December 2009 at about 8:30 pm (summer time). For Darwin and similar locations the chart will still apply, but some stars will be lost off the southern edge while extra stars will be visible to the north. Stars down to a brightness or magnitude limit of 4.5 are shown 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
- 1<sup>st</sup> magnitude
- 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 4<sup>th</sup>

## Moon phase

- Full Moon: 02nd
- Last quarter: 09th
- New Moon: 16th
- First quarter: 25th



## Chart key

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

Jupiter remains visible in the early evening as a bright star toward the north-west and is close to the Moon on the 21st. On the 18th Mercury is close to the crescent Moon. 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 25th. Summer solstice on the 22nd is the longest day of the year and gives Sydney 14 hours and 25 minutes of daylight. Low in the south is Crux (the Southern Cross) easily located using the two nearby stars called the Pointers.



The 2010 Australian sky guide, by Dr Nick Lomb, has details on the night sky for the whole year, including the rise and set times for the Sun, Moon and planets, and tidal information. Available from Sydney Observatory, Powerhouse Museum, good bookshops (RRP \$16.95); also via mail order (postal charges apply) at

[www.powerhousemuseum.com/publications/](http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/publications/)

Sydney Observatory is open every day (except Christmas day and Good Friday) from 10am to 5pm and at night (bookings essential) for telescope viewings and illuminating films and presentations in the 3D space theatre. Watson Road, Observatory Hill, The Rocks Phone 61 2 9921 3485

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