

Sydney Observatory night sky map

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

September 2010

www.sydneysydneyobservatory.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 September 2010 at about 7.30pm (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 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, and the outer circular edge represents the horizon.

Star brightness

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

Moon phase

- Last quarter: 2nd
- New Moon: 8th
- First quarter: 15th
- Full Moon: 23rd

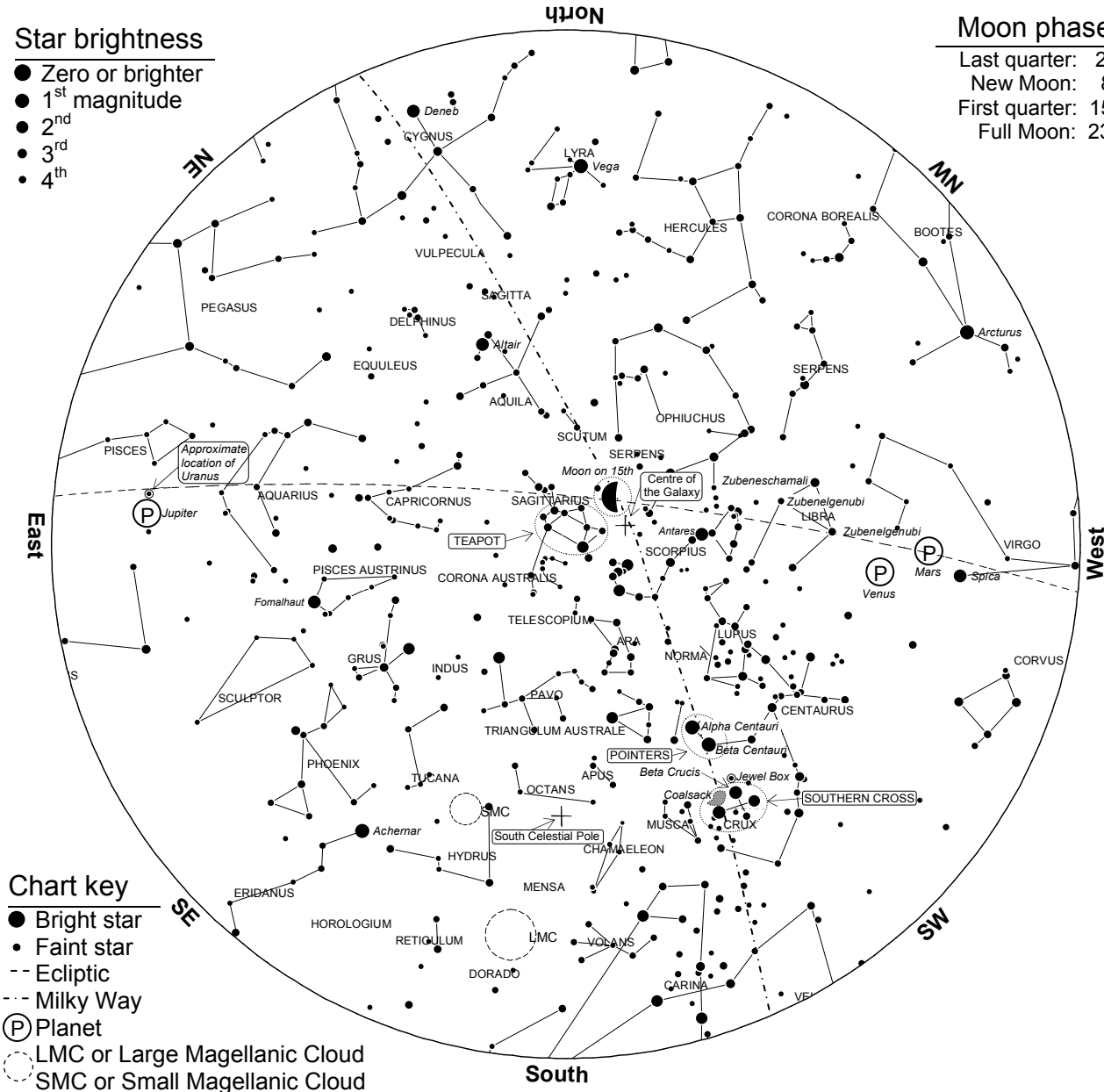


Chart key

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

The spring equinox occurs on the 23rd when the length of day and night is almost equal, about 12 hours each. Jupiter remains visible in the early evening as a bright star toward the east. On the 11th at 6.45pm Venus and Mars are next to the Moon toward the west. The best time to see the Moon using binoculars or a small telescope is a few days either side of the first quarter Moon on the 15th. To the south-west is Crux (the Southern Cross) easily located using the two nearby stars called the Pointers. In the centre of the sky are the constellations of Scorpius (the Scorpion) and Sagittarius (the Archer).



Sydney Observatory, with a magnificent view overlooking Sydney Harbour, is open every day (except Christmas day and Good Friday) between 10am and 5pm and for night sessions (times vary depending on the season). View the sky nightly through one of our telescopes, and see 3D movies about the Universe. Bookings are essential for night programs.

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