

Sydney Observatory night sky map

July 2009

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

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 July 2009 at about 7.30 pm (eastern 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 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: 07th
- Last quarter: 15th
- New moon: 22nd
- First quarter: 29th

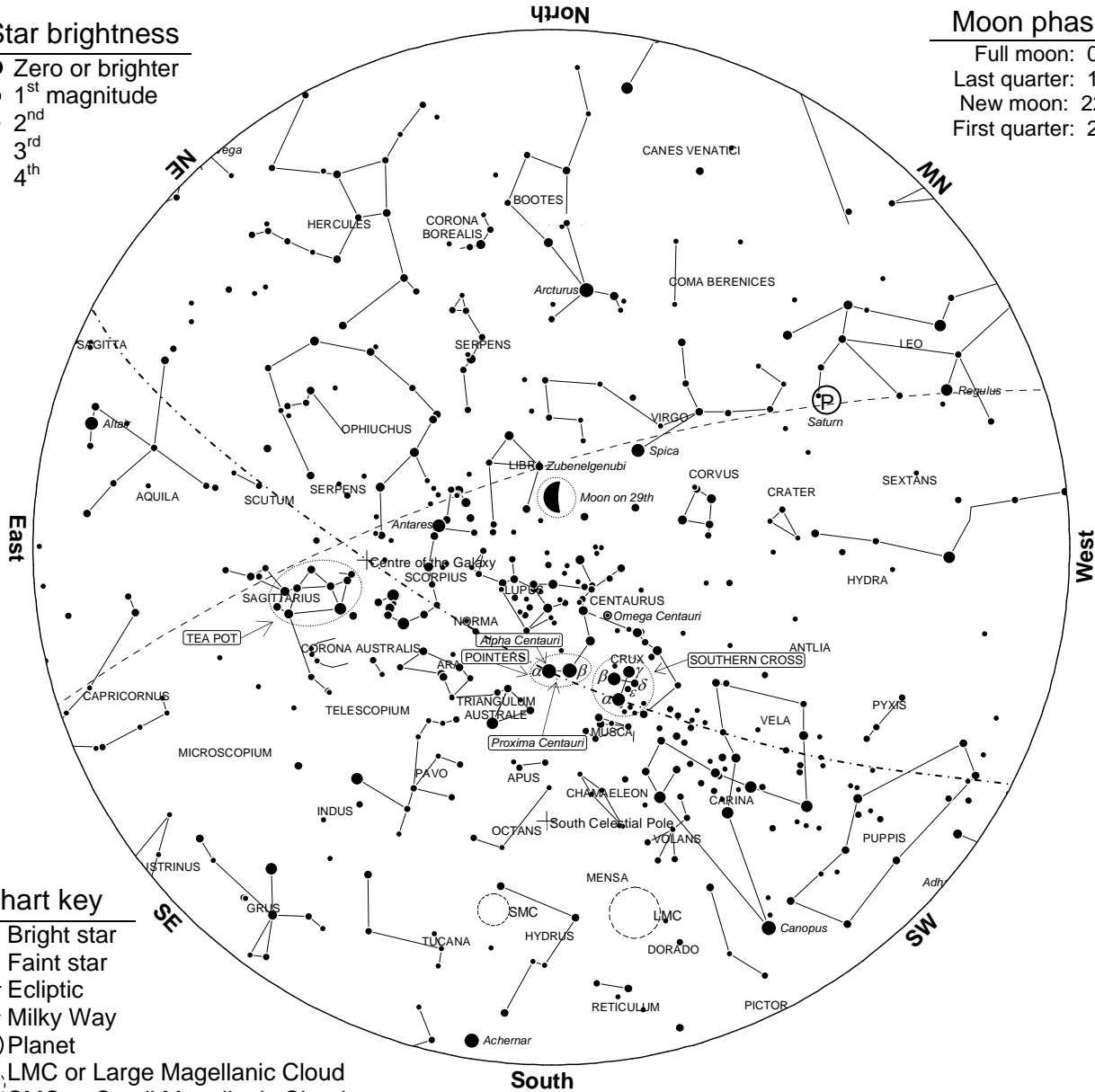


Chart key

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

High in the sky are the constellations Scorpius (the Scorpion) and Crux (the Southern Cross). The Southern Cross is easily located using the two nearby Pointer stars. The brighter of the Pointers, Alpha Centauri, is the nearest star system to the Sun. Near the end of the Scorpion's tail is the unofficial constellation of the Teapot. On the 4th the Earth is at its greatest distance from the Sun, a mere 152,091,221 km. Saturn remains visible towards the north-west in the constellation of Leo. The first quarter Moon can easily be seen towards the north on the 29th.



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 in July from 6.15pm to 8pm and from 8.15pm to 10pm. View the sky through one of our telescopes, and see 3D movies about the Universe. Bookings are essential for night programs.

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