

Sydney Observatory night sky map

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

December 2011

www.sydneyobservatory.com.au

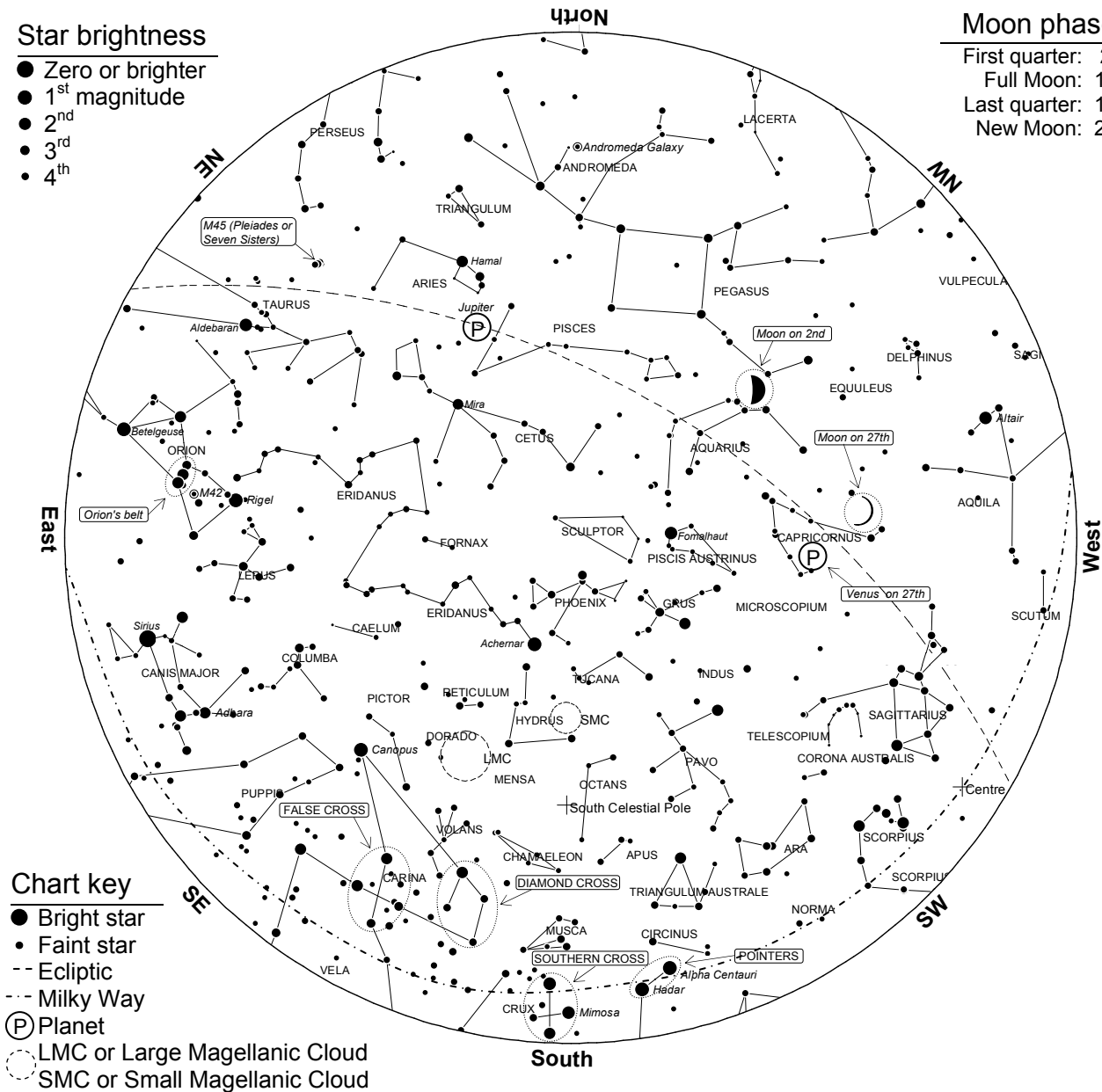
The star chart shows the stars and constellations visible in the night sky for Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Canberra, Hobart, Adelaide and Perth for December 2011 at about 7.30 pm (Local Standard Time) or 8.30 pm (Local Daylight Savings Time). For Darwin and similar locations, the chart will still apply 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

- First quarter: 2nd
- Full Moon: 11th
- Last quarter: 18th
- New Moon: 25th



Jupiter remains visible in the early evening as a bright star-like object towards the north and is close to the Moon on the 6th. On the 27th Venus 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 2nd. On the 10th a total lunar eclipse occurs with the full Moon entering the Earth's shadow at 11.45 pm and exiting at 1.58 am on the 11th. Summer solstice on the 22nd is the longest day of the year and gives Sydney 14 hours and 25 minutes of daylight. Crux (the Southern Cross) is just above the southern horizon making it difficult to locate.



2012 Australasian sky guide book

The 2012 *Australasian sky guide* has details on the sky for the whole year, including rise and set times for the Sun, Moon and planets, and tidal information for Sydney. Available from Sydney Observatory, the Powerhouse Museum and good bookshops (RRP \$16.95); also via mail order (postal charges apply) at www.powerhousemuseum.com/publications/

Daily activities

Sydney Observatory is open for night and day visits every day except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Good Friday. Bookings are essential for night programs. View the stars through our telescopes at night and see the 3D space theatre. Watson Road, Observatory Hill, The Rocks www.sydneyobservatory.com.au Ph (02) 9921 3485