

Sydney Observatory night sky map

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

February 2012

www.sydneyobservatory.com.au

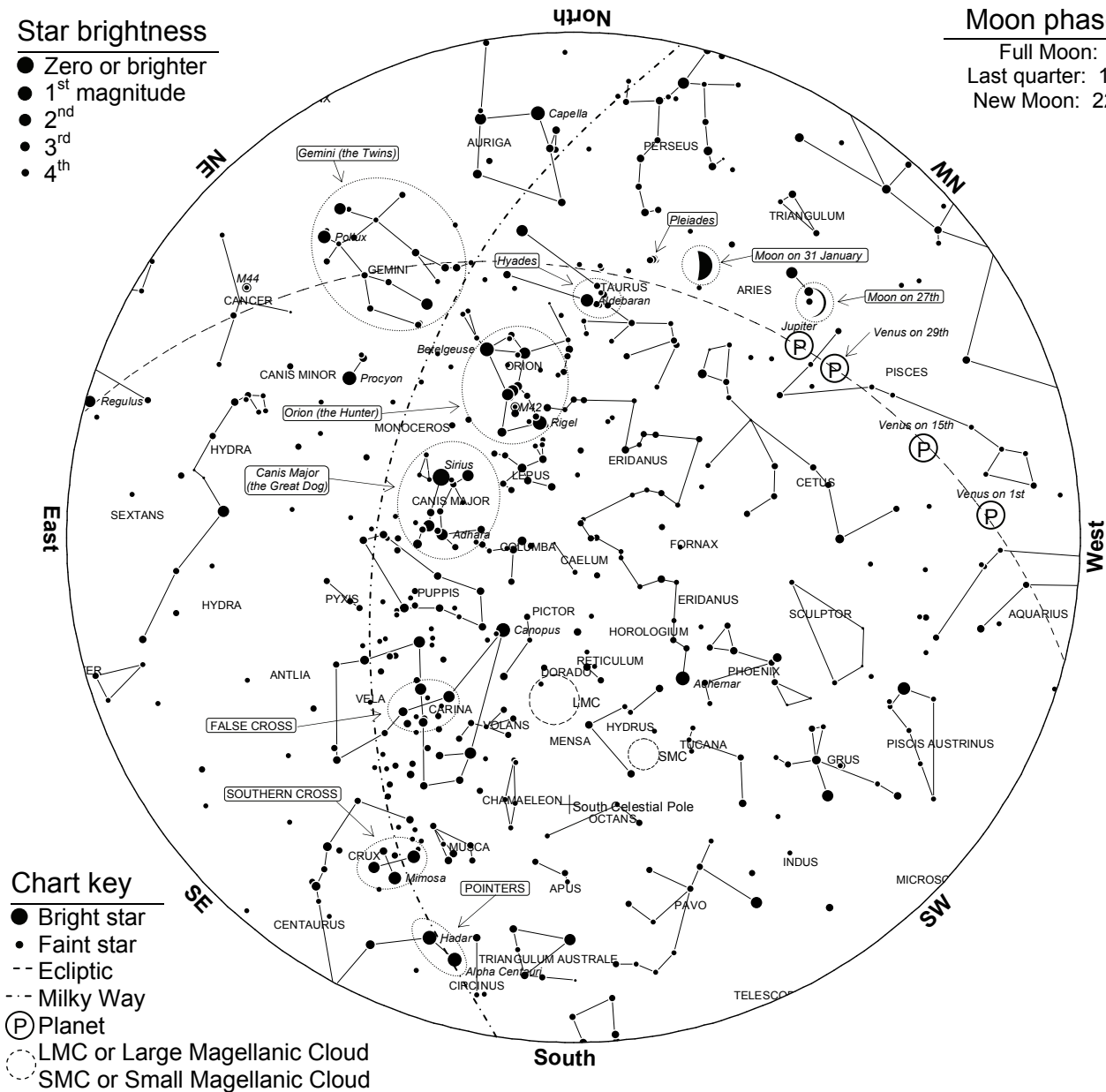
This star chart shows the stars and constellations visible in the night sky for Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Hobart and Adelaide for February 2012 at about 8.30 pm (summer time) and at about 7.30 pm (local standard time) for Perth and Brisbane. For Darwin and similar locations, the chart will still apply, 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. 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 point, and the outer circular edge represents the horizon.

Star brightness

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

Moon phase

- Full Moon: 8th
- Last quarter: 15th
- New Moon: 22nd



In the north-west is Jupiter, visible as a bright star-like object in Pisces. At 9 pm on the 27th, Jupiter is located next to the crescent Moon towards the north-west horizon. Venus is still visible low in the sky towards the west early in the evening. During the month, Venus is moving towards Jupiter, with Jupiter and Venus nearest to each other on the 29th. There is no first quarter Moon in February as it occurred on 31st January or will occur on 1st March. The best time to view the Moon using binoculars or a small telescope is a few days either side of the first quarter Moon. Visible in the sky are the constellations, Canis Major (the Great Dog), Orion (the Hunter) and Gemini (the Twins). Crux (the Southern Cross) remains low in the south-east.



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