

Sydney Observatory night sky map

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

January 2012

www.sydneysydneyobservatory.com.au

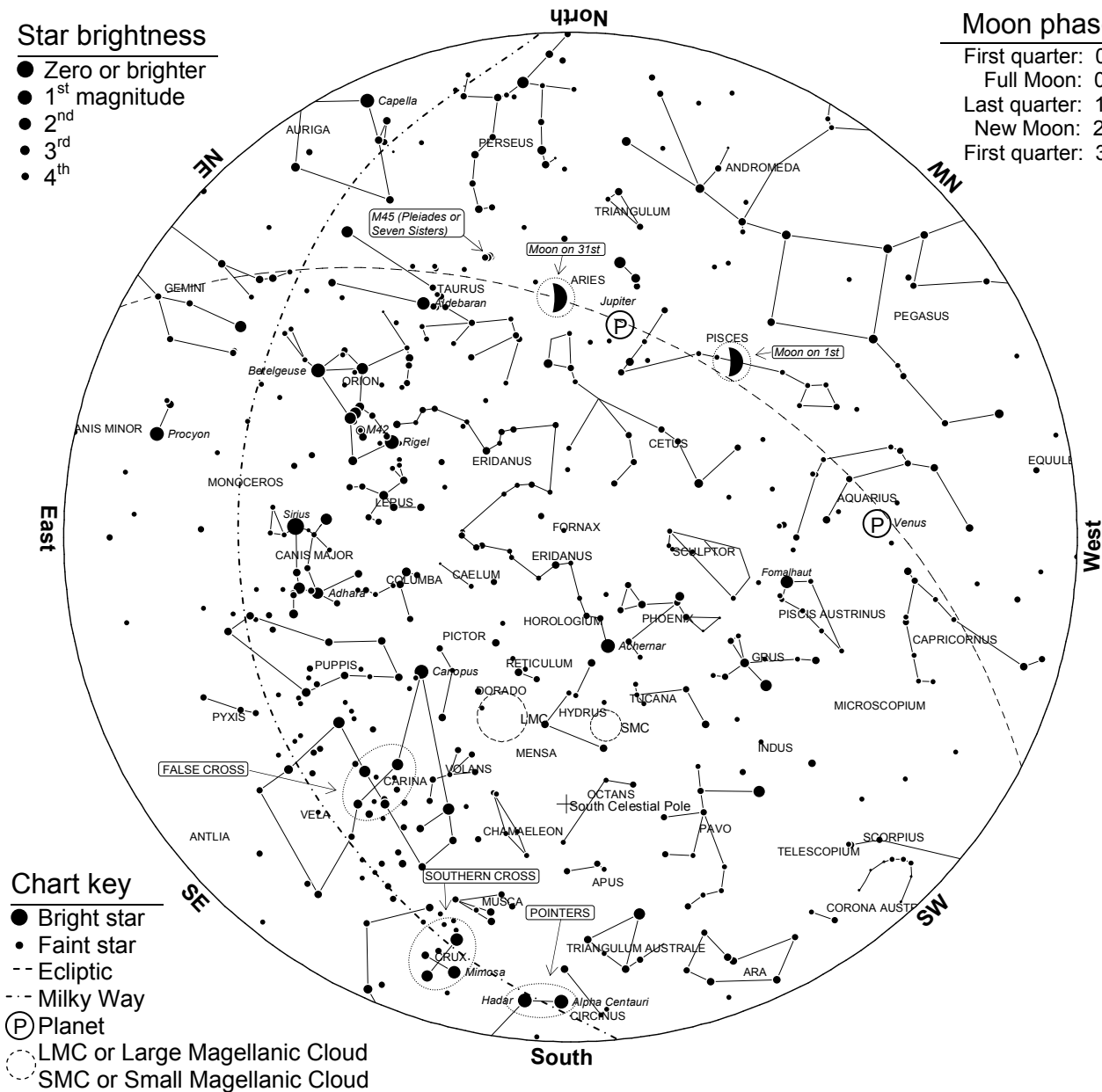
This star chart shows the stars and constellations visible in the night sky for Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Hobart and Adelaide for January 2012 at about 8.30 pm (summer time) and at about 7.30 pm (local standard time) for Perth and Brisbane. For Darwin and similar locations, the chart will still apply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

- First quarter: 01st
- Full Moon: 09th
- Last quarter: 16th
- New Moon: 23rd
- First quarter: 31st



Jupiter is easily seen as the brightest object towards the north. Venus remains visible in the early evening as a bright object towards the west. 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 1st or 31st. The first quarter Moon is near Jupiter on the 2nd, 3rd and 30th, while the crescent Moon is near Venus on the 26th. The two brightest stars in the night sky can also be seen: Sirius, in the constellation Canis Major, is the brightest, and Canopus, in the constellation Carina, is second brightest. Crux (the Southern Cross) is low in the south and can be difficult to find.



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.sydneysydneyobservatory.com.au Ph (02) 9921 3485