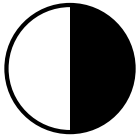
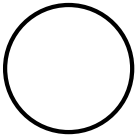
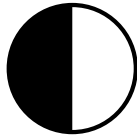
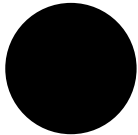


## What's Up - July 2025

### Moon

 <p><b>First Quarter</b> 2 July 2025 21:30</p>	 <p><b>Full Moon</b> 10 July 2025 22:37</p>	 <p><b>Last Quarter</b> 18 July 2025 02:38</p>	 <p><b>New Moon</b> 24 July 2025 21:11</p>
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The moon is at perigee (closest to Earth) on 20/07 at 15:52, at a distance of 368 047 km.  
It is at apogee (furthest from Earth) on 05/07 at 04:29, at a distance of 404 627 km.

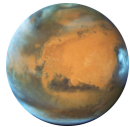
### Planets



**Mercury** (in Cancer)  
↑ 08:56 ↓ 19:44



**Venus** (in Taurus)  
↑ 04:49 ↓ 15:02  
Near the Moon on 21/07 and 22/07



**Mars** (in Leo)  
↑ 10:37 ↓ 22:08  
Near the Moon on 28/07



**Jupiter** (in Gemini)  
↑ 06:52 ↓ 16:43  
Near the Moon on 22/07



**Saturn** (in Pisces)  
↑ 23:15 ↓ 11:26  
Near the Moon on 16/07

*All the details (apart from the proximity to the Moon) are for mid-month in Cape Town.*

### More information



Scan the QR code for more information about the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) and for details about visiting the SAAO in Cape Town or Sutherland.

### Some bright stars in the evening sky

Altair: white star, brightest star in Aquila  
Antares: red supergiant in Scorpius  
Arcturus: red giant in Boötes  
Canopus: yellowish-white star in Carina  
Procyon: yellowish-white star in Canis Minor  
Regulus: blue-white star in Leo  
Sirius: brightest star in the night sky, in Canis Major  
Spica: bluish-white star in Virgo  
The Pointers: Alpha and Beta Centauri

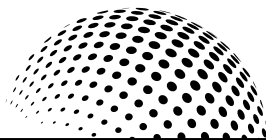
### Meteor showers

The alpha-Capricornids are active from 03/07 until 15/08, peaking on 31/07 with 5 meteors per hour. They are best viewed between 20:00 and 04:00. The Southern delta-Aquariids are active from 12/07 until 23/08, peaking on 31/07 with 25 meteors per hour. They are best viewed between 22:00 and 05:00. The Piscis Austrinids are active from 15/07 until 10/08, peaking on 28/07 with 5 meteors per hour. They are best viewed between 21:30 and 05:00. The eta-Eridanids are active from 31/07 until 19/08, peaking on 08/08 with 3 meteors per hour. They are best viewed between 01:00 and 05:30.

### Fun facts

The Large and Small Magellanic Clouds are two irregular dwarf galaxies orbiting our Milky Way galaxy. They are visible in the southern sky as faint, patchy wisps and are among the closest galaxies to our own. The Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC) is significantly larger and brighter than the Small Magellanic Cloud (SMC).

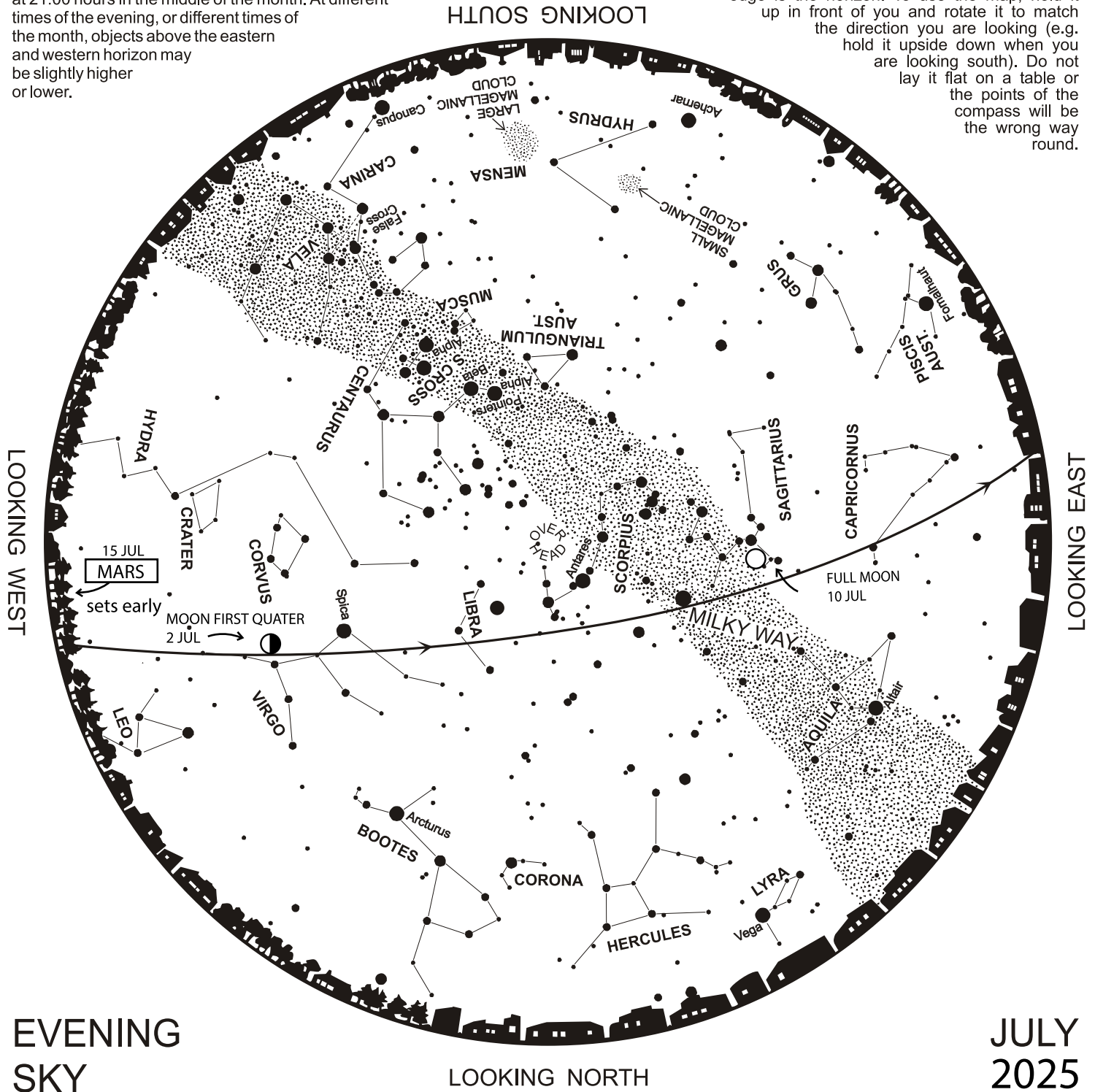
Galaxies have a lot of stars, and their number is estimated to be between 100 and 400 million for the Milky Way alone. If you take into account that there are probably 200 billion to 2 trillion galaxies in the observable universe, you end up with quite a few stars! Even so, there are probably more sand grains on Earth, in particular if you take the deserts into account.



## IZIKO PLANETARIUM AND DIGITAL DOME

The map shows the night sky visible above the Cape at 21:00 hours in the middle of the month. At different times of the evening, or different times of the month, objects above the eastern and western horizon may be slightly higher or lower.

The centre of the map is the overhead point, the edge is the horizon. To use the map, hold it up in front of you and rotate it to match the direction you are looking (e.g. hold it upside down when you are looking south). Do not lay it flat on a table or the points of the compass will be the wrong way round.



For stargazers in Cape Town and across Southern Africa, July offers one of the most rewarding times of the year to explore the cosmos. The winter constellations take center stage this month. Scorpius dominates the northern horizon with its distinctive curved tail and the bright red supergiant Antares, often referred to as the "heart of the scorpion." To the east, Sagittarius and its recognisable Teapot asterism mark the direction of the dense galactic core of the Milky Way. High overhead, the Southern Cross (Crux) gleams near the zenith, flanked by the brilliant pointer stars Alpha and Beta Centauri. To the south, the Large and Small Magellanic Clouds, satellite galaxies of our own, drift across the sky, offering a breathtaking sight that's invisible from northern latitudes.

Jupiter begins to rise before dawn by mid-month, offering sharp telescopic views of its striped atmosphere and the dance of its Galilean moons. Saturn follows, becoming visible in the early morning hours with its spectacular ring system tilted toward Earth. Mars makes a brief appearance in the predawn sky, glowing dimly but distinctly above the eastern horizon. Venus, however, remains too close to the Sun throughout the month and is not observable. Skywatchers should mark their calendars for the Full Moon around July 10, which will illuminate the winter landscape in a silvery glow, also known locally as the Meerkat Moon.

Centre for Astronomical Heritage (CFAH). "Meerkat Moon: July's Full Moon in South African Skies." CFAH, 2025, <https://cfah.org.za/fullmoon/meerkat-moon/>.