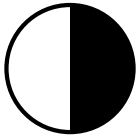
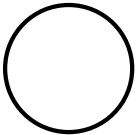
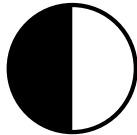
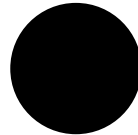


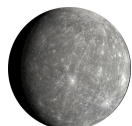
## What's Up - June 2025

### Moon

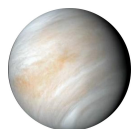
 <p><b>First Quarter</b> 3 June 2025 05:41</p>	 <p><b>Full Moon</b> 11 June 2025 09:44</p>	 <p><b>Last Quarter</b> 18 June 2025 21:19</p>	 <p><b>New Moon</b> 25 June 2025 12:32</p>
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The moon is at perigee (closest to Earth) on 23/06 at 06:43, at a distance of 363 178 km.  
It is at apogee (furthest from Earth) on 07/06 at 12:42, at a distance of 405 553 km.

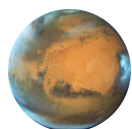
### Planets



**Mercury** (in Gemini)  
↑ 09:14 ↓ 18:57  
Near the Moon on 27/06



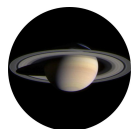
**Venus** (in Aries)  
↑ 04:12 ↓ 15:11  
Near the Moon on 22/06



**Mars** (in Leo)  
↑ 11:49 ↓ 22:43  
Near the Moon on 01/06, 02/06  
and 29/06



**Jupiter** (in Gemini)  
↑ 08:21 ↓ 18:11



**Saturn** (in Pisces)  
↑ 01:14 ↓ 13:25  
Near the Moon on 19/06

*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  
Betelgeuse: red supergiant in Orion  
Canopus: yellowish-white star in Carina  
Procyon: yellowish-white star in Canis Minor  
Regulus: blue-white star in Leo  
Rigel: blue supergiant in Orion  
Sirius: brightest star in the night sky, in Canis Major  
Spica: bluish-white star in Virgo  
The Pointers: Alpha and Beta Centauri

### Meteor showers

There are no major meteor showers this month.

### Winter solstice

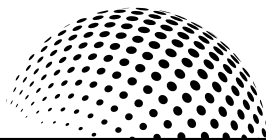
The winter solstice occurs on the 21st of June at 04h21. This marks the (astronomical) beginning of winter on the southern hemisphere, but it also means that for us southern hemisphere folks the days are getting longer again.

### Fun facts

Winter is the best time to see the constellation Sagittarius. Its brightest stars look like a "teapot". The centre of our galaxy, the Milky Way, is located near the boundary of Sagittarius, and a massive black hole can be found here. A worldwide network of radio telescopes, the Event Horizon Telescope, managed to take an image of this black hole (or rather of the matter falling on to it).

Virgo is the second-largest constellation in the sky, after Hydra. It's part of the zodiac, located between Leo and Libra. Virgo is often depicted as a maiden holding a sheaf of wheat, and is associated with fertility and agriculture in Greek mythology. The brightest star in Virgo is Spica.

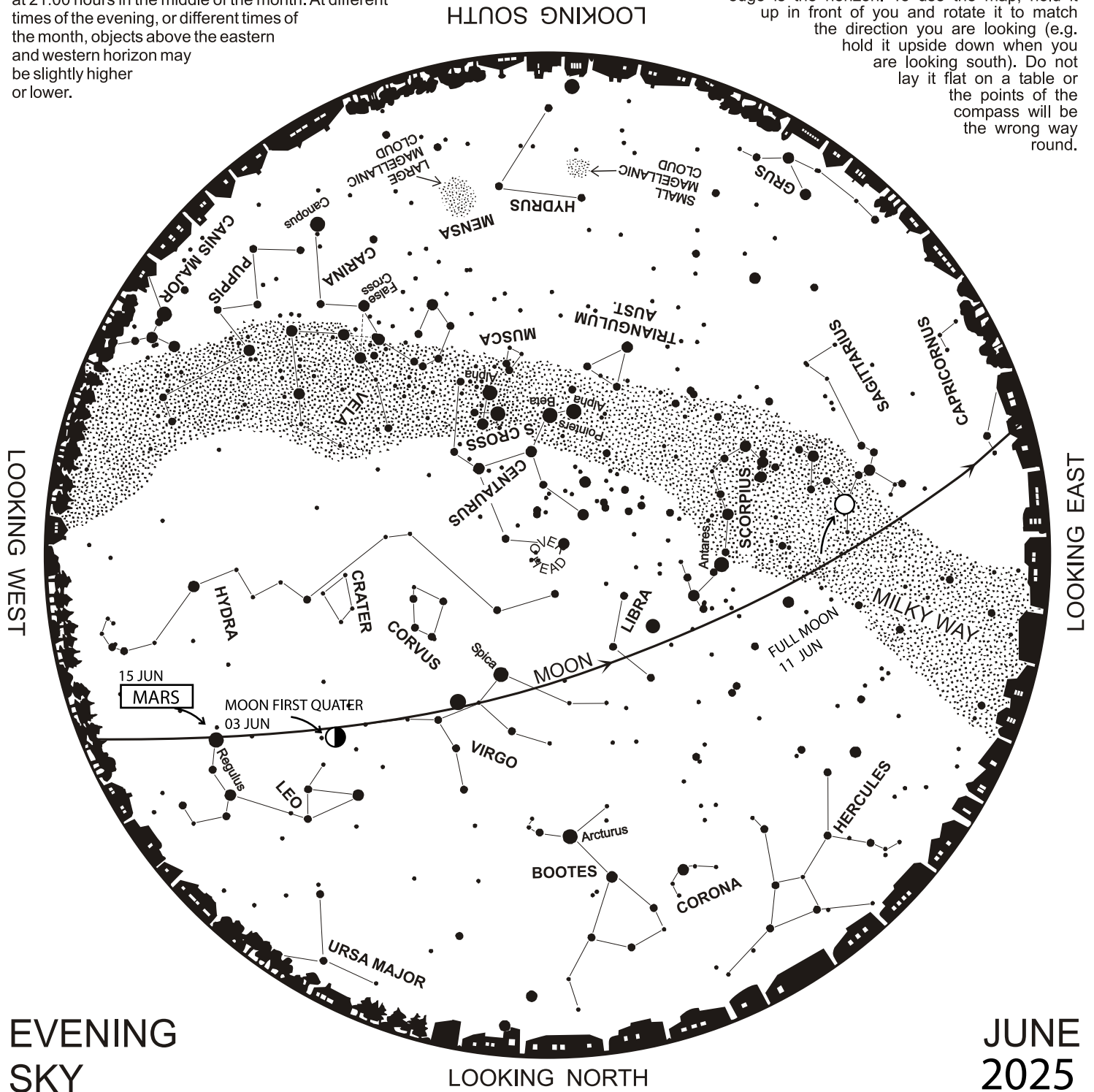
There are more than a million asteroids larger than 1 km between Mars and Jupiter. Still, a spaceship would be hard-pressed to hide in the asteroid belt - the average distance between asteroids is more than 900 000 km!



## 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.



## EVENING SKY

## JUNE 2025

As we move towards the longest night in South Africa (Winter Solstice on 21 June, 04:41 SAST), the prominent winter constellation Scorpius (scorpion) rises early in the east. Between Scorpius and nearby Sagittarius (Archer), look out for dark dust lanes in a broader region of the Milky Way (requires dark conditions). This area encompasses 'Sagittarius A\*', the supermassive black hole at the centre of our Galaxy. Moving southwards, the Southern Cross (made up of Crux and the Pointer Stars: Alpha and Beta Centauri) are prominent overhead. Closer to the southern horizon, you may be able to make out the Large and Small Magellanic Clouds (LMC, SMC) - two neighboring irregular dwarf galaxies visible to the naked eye under dark conditions.

Look towards the north-west in the early evening to find the bright reddish planet Mars close to Leo (lion). Near to the western horizon just after sunset, Jupiter can be seen for the first half of the month, and Mercury from mid-June. In South Africa, we call the Full Moon (11 June) the 'Sister's Moon' because this month the beautiful 'Pleiades' open star cluster (also known as 'isiLime-la') reappears in our night skies, just before sunrise. In African starlore, the reappearance of these 'digging stars' in Southern Africa heralded the start of the growing season.