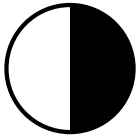
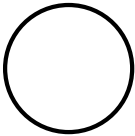
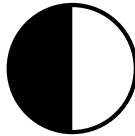
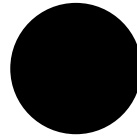


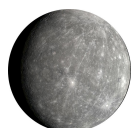
What's Up - August 2025

Moon

 <p>First Quarter 1 August 2025 14:41 31 August 2025 08:25</p>	 <p>Full Moon 9 August 2025 09:55</p>	 <p>Last Quarter 16 August 2025 07:12</p>	 <p>New Moon 23 August 2025 08:07</p>
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The moon is at perigee (closest to Earth) on 14/08 at 20:01, at a distance of 369 287 km. It is at apogee (furthest from Earth) on 01/08 at 22:37, at a distance of 404 164 km, and again on 29/08 at 17:34, at a distance of 404 552 km.

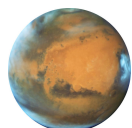
Planets



Mercury (in Cancer)
↑ 06:23 ↓ 16:53
Near the Moon on 21/08



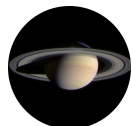
Venus (in Gemini)
↑ 05:25 ↓ 15:29
Near the Moon on 19/08 and 20/08



Mars (in Virgo)
↑ 09:23 ↓ 21:37
Near the Moon on 26/08



Jupiter (in Gemini)
↑ 05:17 ↓ 15:12
Near the Moon on 19/08 and 20/08



Saturn (in Pisces)
↑ 21:08 ↓ 09:22
Near the Moon on 12/08

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
Regulus: blue-white star in Leo
Spica: bluish-white star in Virgo
The Pointers: Alpha and Beta Centauri

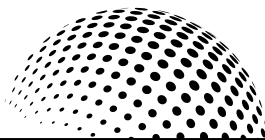
Meteor showers

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

On 23 June, the NSF-DOE Vera C. Rubin Observatory released its first stunning images. With its 8 metre mirror and the largest digital camera ever built Rubin will over the next 10 years produce what you might call the “greatest astronomical movie of all times”. It is set to revolutionise astronomy, finding 10 million changes in the sky every night.

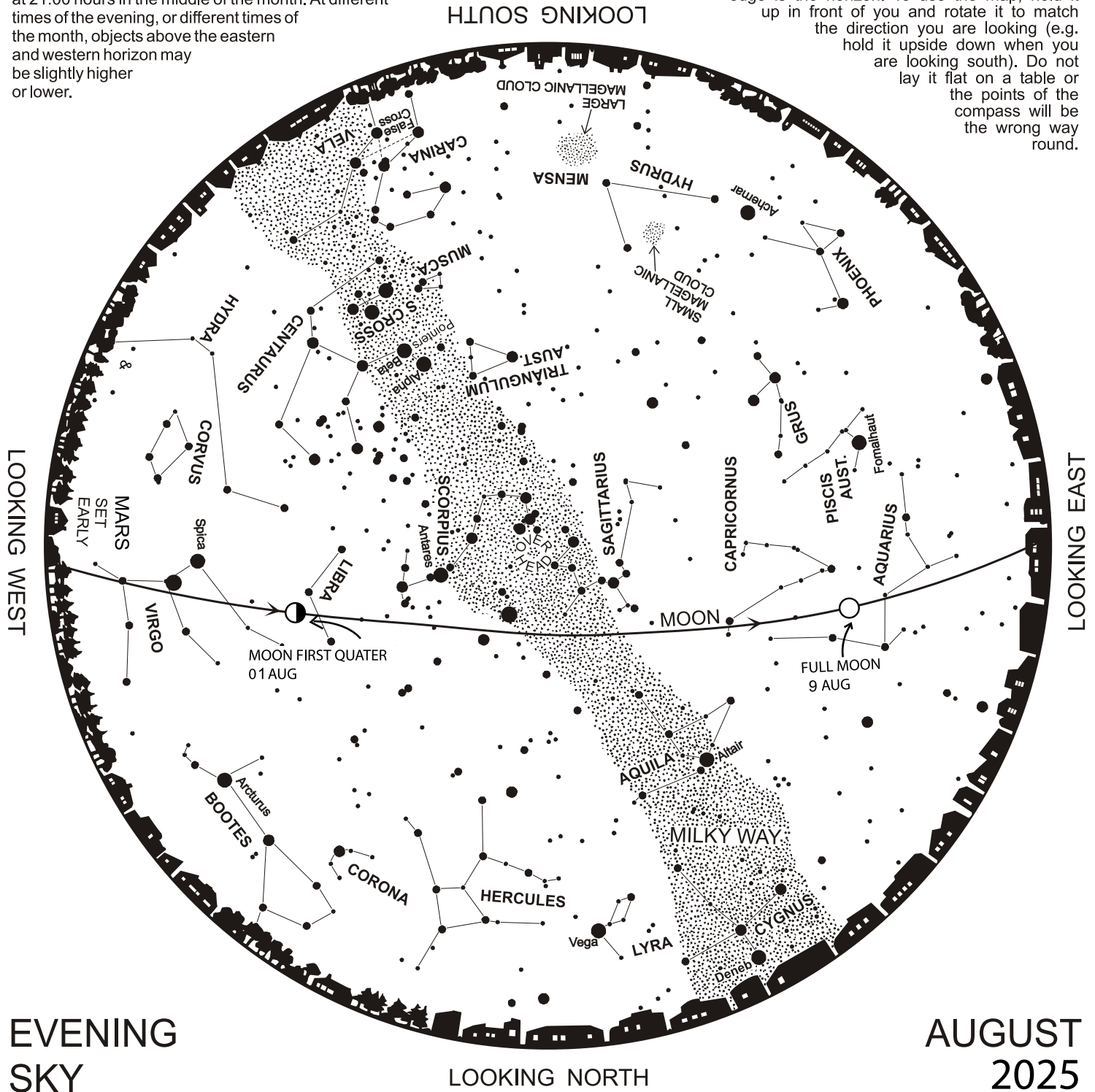
The Rubin Observatory is named after Vera C. Rubin (1928 - 2016). Vera Rubin was the first astronomer to provide convincing evidence for dark matter. When she was told in the 1960s that her time on Palomar Observatory was limited “because we don’t have a women’s bathroom”, she cut out (the story goes) a little paper skirt, taped it on the stick figure on the men’s bathroom door, turned round and said: “Now you have a ladies’ room”. Vera Rubin remained a lifelong advocate for women in astronomy.



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.



Put your birding skills to the test this month as you trace out the several winged constellations currently gliding across our evening skies. This celestial aviary includes Corvus (crow) low on the western horizon and Grus (crane) just above the constellation Phoenix towards the south-east. Between Grus and Hydrus (water snake), lies Tucana (toucan, not shown on map).

Aquila (eagle) soars upwards through the Milky Way Galaxy, pursued closely by Cygnus (swan) near to the northern horizon. Following the Milky Way onwards, you'll find Scorpius (scorpion) and Sagittarius (archer) directly overhead. Further south, past the Southern Cross with its two bright pointer stars Alpha and Beta Centauri, lies the Great Carina nebula (NGC 3372) - a large bright emission nebula well-worth exploring with binoculars.

Throughout August, Mars is visible after sunset towards the western horizon (in Virgo) and Saturn rises a few hours before midnight (in Pisces). In the early morning just before sunrise, look out for bright planets Venus and Jupiter (both in Gemini) currently competing for the 'Morning Star' title (traditionally assigned to the brightest planet in the sky at the time). They will appear closest together on 12 August and near to the crescent moon on 20 August (with the Full 'Peace' Moon on 9 August). Around mid-month, Mercury may be seen in the morning twilight low in the north-east.

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