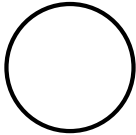
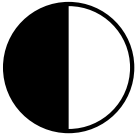
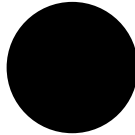
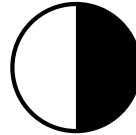


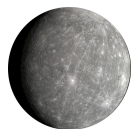
What's Up - November 2025

Moon

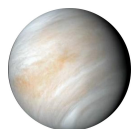
 Full Moon 5 November 2025 15:19	 Last Quarter 12 November 2025 07:28	 New Moon 20 November 2025 08:47	 First Quarter 28 November 2025 08:59
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The moon is at perigee (closest to Earth) on 06/11 at 00:29, at a distance of 356 833 km.
It is at apogee (furthest from Earth) on 20/11 at 04:48, at a distance of 406 693 km.

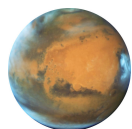
Planets



Mercury (in Scorpius)
↑ 06:11 ↓ 20:19



Venus (in Libra)
↑ 05:01 ↓ 18:23



Mars (in Ophiuchus)
↑ 06:25 ↓ 20:38



Jupiter (in Gemini)
↑ 23:51 ↓ 09:55
Near the Moon on 10/11



Saturn (in Aquarius)
↑ 14:40 ↓ 03:05
Near the Moon on 01/11, 02/11
and 29/11

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

Meteor showers

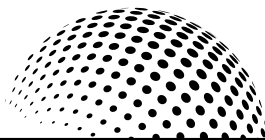
The Southern Taurids are active from 20/09 until 20/11, peaking on 05/11 with 7 meteors per hour. They are best viewed between 21:30 and 03:30. The Orionids are active from 02/10 until 07/11, peaking on 21/10 with 20 meteors per hour. They are best viewed between 00:00 and 04:00. The Northern Taurids are active from 20/10 until 10/12, peaking on 12/11 with 5 meteors per hour. They are best viewed between 21:30 and 03:30. The Leonids are active from 06/11 until 30/11, peaking on 17/11 with 10 meteors per hour. They are best viewed between 03:00 and 04:00. The alpha-Monocerotids are active from 15/11 until 25/11, peaking on 21/11 with less than 5 meteors per hour. They are best viewed between 23:00 and 04:00.

Fun facts

The Southern African Large Telescope (SALT) is celebrating its 20th anniversary this month. With its primary mirror made of 91 hexagonal one-metre mirrors it still is the biggest single-mirror optical telescope on the southern hemisphere.

Over the last 20 years SALT has observed all kind of objects ranging from asteroids in our solar system to exploding stars in distant galaxies. A special highlight was taking one of the first spectra of the first neutron star merger ever observed.

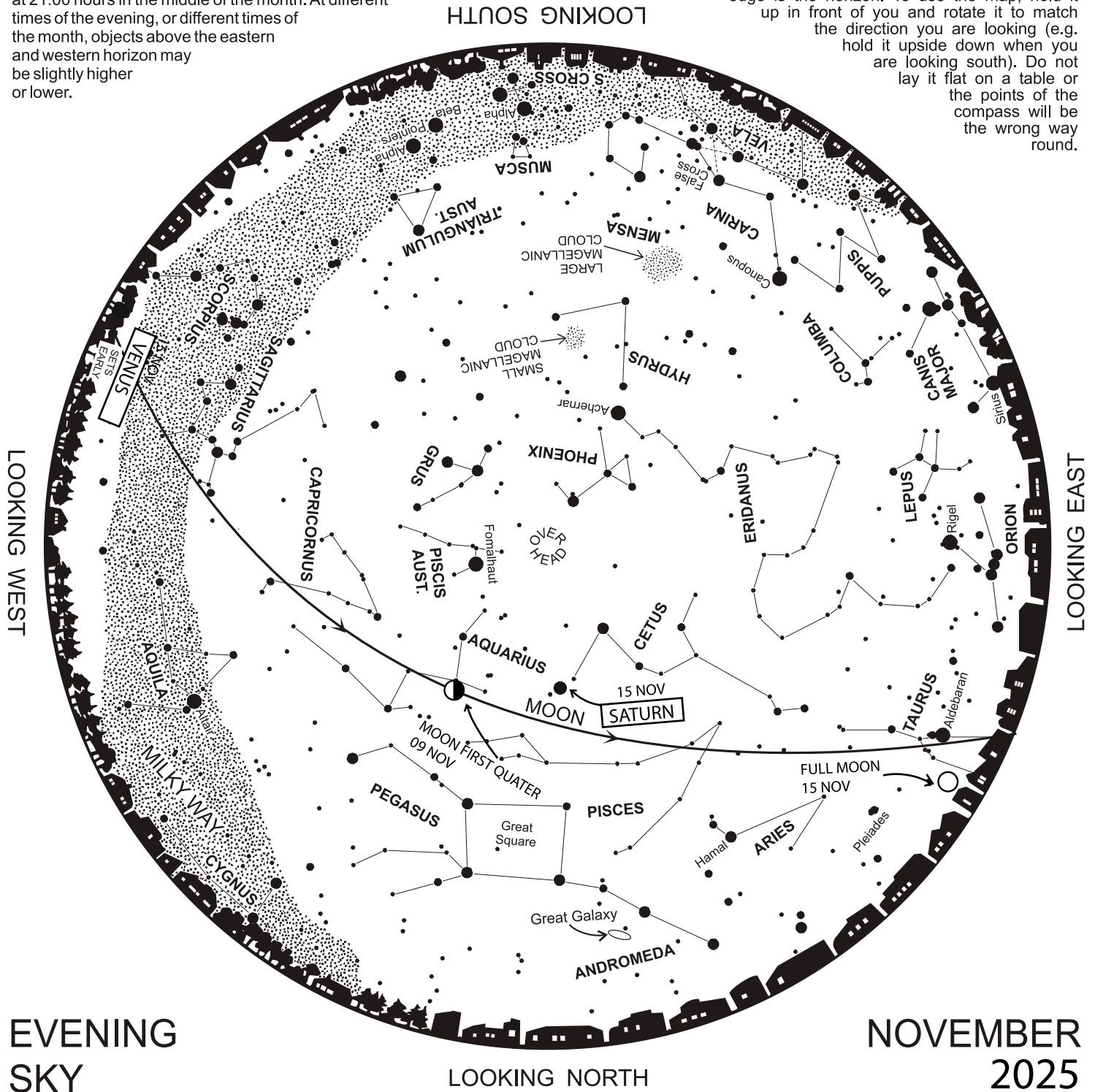
World-class science requires world-class precision: The concrete ring on which the main structure of the telescope rests was the smoothest, flattest piece of concrete ever cast in South Africa, deviating by no more than 1 mm from a flat plane over its 50 m circumference.



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

NOVEMBER 2025

In November, Southern Africa's night skies undergo a seasonal transformation. Orion rises prominently in the east, showcasing its Belt, Sword, and Shield, though its Club remains faint. Sirius, the brightest star in Canis Major and known in Xhosa as iQhawe ("champion"), appears later in the month. This is a prime time for spotting galaxies with the naked eye: the Large and Small Magellanic Clouds glow in the southern sky near the constellation Mensa, while the distant Andromeda Galaxy may be glimpsed under dark conditions.

As Scorpius sets in the west, it takes the red star Antares with it, and the Teapot of Sagittarius also dips below the horizon.

Crux (Southern Cross) remains low in the south, traceable with help from Alpha and Beta Centauri. Overhead, the Great Square of Pegasus dominates before drifting westward. Fomalhaut, the "Sweetheart Star" or Ndemara in Shona, shines in the southeast beneath Saturn.

Saturn is visible among Cetus, Pisces, and Aquarius, while Mars stays elusive near the western horizon. November's Full Moon on the 5th is a supermoon, the largest of the year, and the New Moon falls on the 20th. The Leonid meteor shower peaks on 17–18 November, radiating from Leo in the northeast during early morning hours.

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