

The Evening Sky Map

FREE* EACH MONTH FOR YOU TO EXPLORE, LEARN & ENJOY THE NIGHT SKY

Sky Calendar – July 2020

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- 1 **Mercury at inferior conjunction** with the Sun at 3h UT. Mercury passes into the morning sky.
- 2 **Moon near Antares** (evening sky) at 20h UT.
- 4 **Earth at Aphelion** (farthest from Sun) at 12h UT. The Sun-Earth distance is 1.016694 a.u. or about 152.1 million km.
- 5 **Penumbral Lunar Eclipse** from 3:07 to 5:52 UT, with mid-eclipse at 4:30 UT. Best seen at mid-eclipse. Visible from the Americas, SW Europe and Africa.
- 5 **Full Moon** at 4:44 UT.
- 5 **Moon near Jupiter** (midnight sky) at 23h UT. Mag. -2.7.
- 6 **Moon near Saturn** (midnight sky) at 10h UT. Mag. 0.2.
- 8 **Venus at its brightest** at 12h UT. Mag. -4.5.
- 11 **Moon near Mars** (morning sky) at 22h UT. Mag. -0.7.
- 12 **Venus 0.95° N of Aldebaran** (40° from Sun, morning sky) at 2h UT. Mags. -4.5 and 0.9.
- 12 **Moon at apogee** (farthest from Earth) at 19h UT (distance 404,199 km; angular size 29.6').
- 12 **Last Quarter Moon** at 23:30 UT.
- 14 **Jupiter at opposition** (opposite the Sun) at 8h UT. Best time to observe the largest planet in the solar system. Mag. -2.8.
- 16 **Moon near the Pleiades** at 8h UT (morning sky).
- 17 **Moon, Venus and Aldebaran** within a circle of diam. 4.1° (morning sky) at 2h UT. Mags. -4.5 and 0.9.
- 19 **Moon near Mercury** (morning sky) at 5h UT. Mag. 0.9.
- 20 **New Moon** at 17:32 UT. Start of lunation 1207.
- 20 **Saturn at opposition** (opposite the Sun) at 22h UT. The ringed planet is at its closest and brightest at mag. +0.1. Saturn's rings are spectacular even in a small telescope.
- 23 **Moon near Regulus** (evening sky) at 0h UT.
- 25 **Moon at perigee** (closest to Earth) at 5:05 UT (distance 368,361 km; angular size 32.4').
- 26 **Moon near Spica** (evening sky) at 19h UT.
- 27 **First Quarter Moon** at 12:33 UT.
- 30 **Moon near Antares** (evening sky) at 3h UT.

More sky events and links at <http://Skymaps.com/skycalendar/>

All times in Universal Time (UT). (USA Eastern Daylight Time = UT - 4 hours.)



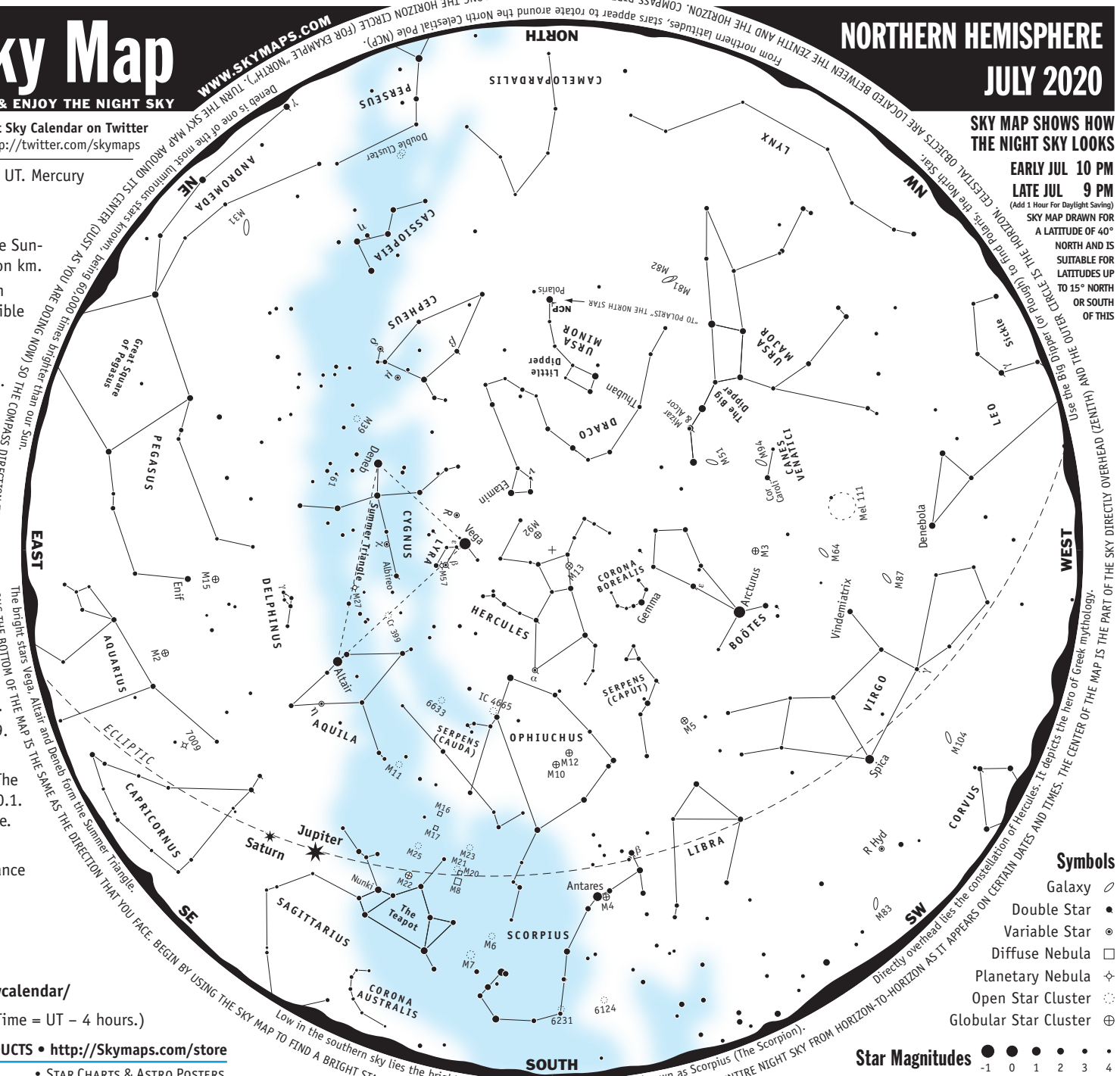
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NORTHERN HEMISPHERE JULY 2020

SKY MAP SHOWS HOW THE NIGHT SKY LOOKS

EARLY JUL 10 PM
 LATE JUL 9 PM
 (Add 1 Hour For Daylight Saving)
 SKY MAP DRAWN FOR A LATITUDE OF 40° NORTH AND IS SUITABLE FOR LATITUDES UP TO 15° NORTH OR SOUTH OF THIS



- ### Symbols
- Galaxy ☾
 - Double Star ●●
 - Variable Star ⊙
 - Diffuse Nebula □
 - Planetary Nebula ☆
 - Open Star Cluster ○
 - Global Star Cluster ⊕

Star Magnitudes ●●●●●
 -1 0 1 2 3 4

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INSTRUCTIONS: THE SKY MAP SHOWS THE ENTIRE NIGHT SKY FROM HORIZON-TO-HORIZON AS IT APPEARS ON CERTAIN DATES AND TIMES. THE CENTER OF THE MAP IS THE PART OF THE SKY DIRECTLY OVERHEAD (ZENITH) AND THE OUTER CIRCLE IS THE HORIZON. CELESTIAL OBJECTS ARE LOCATED BETWEEN THE ZENITH AND THE HORIZON. COMPASS DIRECTIONS ARE INDICATED ALONG THE HORIZON CIRCLE (FOR EXAMPLE, "NORTH").

Low in the southern sky lies the bright and easy to recognize constellation known as Scorpius (The Scorpion).
 KT

About the Celestial Objects

Listed on this page are several of the brighter, more interesting celestial objects visible in the evening sky this month (refer to the monthly sky map). The objects are grouped into three categories. Those that can be easily seen with the naked eye (that is, without optical aid), those easily seen with binoculars, and those requiring a telescope to be appreciated. **Note, all of the objects (except single stars) will appear more impressive when viewed through a telescope or very large binoculars.** They are grouped in this way to highlight objects that can be seen using the optical equipment that may be available to the star gazer.

Tips for Observing the Night Sky

When observing the night sky, and in particular deep-sky objects such as star clusters, nebulae, and galaxies, it's always best to observe from a dark location. Avoid direct light from street lights and other sources. If possible observe from a dark location away from the light pollution that surrounds many of today's large cities.

You will see more stars after your eyes adapt to the darkness—usually about 10 to 20 minutes after you go outside. Also, if you need to use a torch to view the sky map, cover the light bulb with red cellophane. This will preserve your dark vision.

Finally, even though the Moon is one of the most stunning objects to view through a telescope, its light is so bright that it brightens the sky and makes many of the fainter objects very difficult to see. So try to observe the evening sky on moonless nights around either New Moon or Last Quarter.

Astronomical Glossary

Conjunction – An alignment of two celestial bodies such that they present the least angular separation as viewed from Earth.

Constellation – A defined area of the sky containing a star pattern.

Diffuse Nebula – A cloud of gas illuminated by nearby stars.

Double Star – Two stars that appear close to each other in the sky; either linked by gravity so that they orbit each other (binary star) or lying at different distances from Earth (optical double). Apparent separation of stars is given in seconds of arc (").

Ecliptic – The path of the Sun's center on the celestial sphere as seen from Earth.

Elongation – The angular separation of two celestial bodies. For Mercury and Venus the greatest elongation occurs when they are at their most angular distance from the Sun as viewed from Earth.

Galaxy – A mass of up to several billion stars held together by gravity.

Globular Star Cluster – A ball-shaped group of several thousand old stars.

Light Year (ly) – The distance a beam of light travels at 300,000 km/sec in one year.

Magnitude – The brightness of a celestial object as it appears in the sky.

Open Star Cluster – A group of tens or hundreds of relatively young stars.

Opposition – When a celestial body is opposite the Sun in the sky.

Planetary Nebula – The remnants of a shell of gas blown off by a star.

Universal Time (UT) – A time system used by astronomers. Also known as Greenwich Mean Time. USA Eastern Standard Time (for example, New York) is 5 hours behind UT.

Variable Star – A star that changes brightness over a period of time.

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE JULY 2020 CELESTIAL OBJECTS



Easily Seen with the Naked Eye

Altair	Aql	• Brightest star in Aquila. Name means "the flying eagle". Dist=16.7 ly.
Arcturus	Boo	• Orange, giant K star. Name means "bear watcher". Dist=36.7 ly.
δ Cephei	Cep	• Cepheid prototype. Mag varies between 3.5 & 4.4 over 5.366 days. Mag 6 companion.
Deneb	Cyg	• Brightest star in Cygnus. One of the greatest known supergiants. Dist=1,400±200 ly.
α Herculis	Her	• Semi-regular variable. Magnitude varies between 3.1 & 3.9 over 90 days. Mag 5.4 companion.
Vega	Lyr	• The 5th brightest star in the sky. A blue-white star. Dist=25.0 ly.
Antares	Sco	• Red, supergiant star. Name means "rival of Mars". Dist=135.9 ly.
Polaris	UMi	• The North Pole Star. A telescope reveals an unrelated mag 8 companion star. Dist=433 ly.
Spica	Vir	• Latin name means "ear of wheat" and shown held in Virgo's left hand. Dist=250 ly.

Easily Seen with Binoculars

η Aquilae	Aql	• Bright Cepheid variable. Mag varies between 3.6 & 4.5 over 7.166 days. Dist=1,200 ly.
M3	CVn	• Easy to find in binoculars. Might be glimpsed with the naked eye.
μ Cephei	Cep	• Herschel's Garnet Star. One of the reddest stars. Mag 3.4 to 5.1 over 730 days.
Mel 111	Com	• Coma Berenices. 80 mag 5-6 stars in 5 deg. Dist=283 ly. Age=400 million years.
χ Cygni	Cyg	• Long period pulsating red giant. Magnitude varies between 3.3 & 14.2 over 407 days.
M39	Cyg	• May be visible to the naked eye under good conditions. Dist=900 ly.
ν Draconis	Dra	• Wide pair of white stars. One of the finest binocular pairs in the sky. Dist=100 ly.
M13	Her	• Best globular in northern skies. Discovered by Halley in 1714. Dist=23,000 ly.
M92	Her	• Fainter and smaller than M13. Use a telescope to resolve its stars.
ε Lyrae	Lyr	• Famous Double Double. Binoculars show a double star. High power reveals each a double.
R Lyrae	Lyr	• Semi-regular variable. Magnitude varies between 3.9 & 5.0 over 46.0 days.
M12	Oph	• Close to the brighter M10. Dist=18,000 ly.
M10	Oph	• 3 degrees from the fainter M12. Both may be glimpsed in binoculars. Dist=14,000 ly.
IC 4665	Oph	• Large, scattered open cluster. Visible with binoculars.
6633	Oph	• Scattered open cluster. Visible with binoculars.
M15	Peg	• Only globular known to contain a planetary nebula (Mag 14, d=1"). Dist=30,000 ly.
M8	Sgr	□ Lagoon Nebula. Bright nebula bisected by a dark lane. Dist=5,200 ly.
M25	Sgr	• Bright cluster located about 6 deg N of "teapot's" lid. Dist=1,900 ly.
M22	Sgr	• A spectacular globular star cluster. Telescope will show stars. Dist=10,000 ly.
M4	Sco	• A close globular. May just be visible without optical aid. Dist=7,000 ly.
M6	Sco	• Butterfly Cluster. 30+ stars in 7x binoculars. Dist=1,960 ly.
M7	Sco	• Superb open cluster. Visible to the naked eye. Age=260 million years. Dist=780 ly.
M5	Ser	• Fine globular star cluster. Telescope will reveal individual stars. Dist=25,000 ly.
Mizar & Alcor	UMa	• Good eyesight or binoculars reveals 2 stars. Not a binary. Mizar has a mag 4 companion.
Cr 399	Vul	• Coathanger asterism or "Brocchi's Cluster". Not a true star cluster. Dist=218 to 1,140 ly.

Telescopic Objects

ε Boötis	Boo	• Red giant star (mag 2.5) with a blue-green mag 4.9 companion. Sep=2.8". Difficult to split.
M94	CVn	• Compact nearly face-on spiral galaxy. Dist=15 million ly.
M51	CVn	• Whirlpool Galaxy. First recognised to have spiral structure. Dist=25 million ly.
M64	Com	• Black-Eye Galaxy. Discovered by J.E. Bode in 1775 - "a small, nebulous star".
Albireo	Cyg	• Beautiful double star. Contrasting colours of orange and blue-green. Sep=34.4".
61 Cygni	Cyg	• Attractive double star. Mags 5.2 & 6.1 orange dwarfs. Dist=11.4 ly. Sep=28.4".
γ Delphini	Del	• Appear yellow & white. Mags 4.3 & 5.2. Dist=100 ly. Struve 2725 double in same field.
β Lyrae	Lyr	• Eclipsing binary. Mag varies between 3.3 & 4.3 over 12.940 days. Fainter mag 7.2 blue star.
M57	Lyr	• Ring Nebula. Magnificent object. Smoke-ring shape. Dist=4,100 ly.
M23	Sgr	• Elongated star cluster. Telescope required to show stars. Dist=2,100 ly.
M20	Sgr	□ Trifid Nebula. A telescope shows 3 dust lanes trisecting nebula. Dist=5,200 ly.
M21	Sgr	• A fine and impressive cluster. Dist=4,200 ly.
M17	Sgr	□ Omega Nebula. Contains the star cluster NGC 6618. Dist=4,900 ly.
M11	Sct	• Wild Duck Cluster. Resembles a globular through binoculars. V-shaped. Dist=5,600 ly.
M16	Ser	□ Eagle Nebula. Requires a telescope of large aperture. Dist=8,150 ly.
M81	UMa	• Beautiful spiral galaxy visible with binoculars. Easy to see in a telescope.
M82	UMa	• Close to M81 but much fainter and smaller.
M87	Vir	• Supergiant galaxy with supermassive black hole at its core. Dist=53.5 million ly.
M27	Vul	• Dumbbell Nebula. Large, twin-lobed shape. Most spectacular planetary. Dist=975 ly.

Calendario del Cielo - Julio 2020

- 1 Mercurio en conjunción inferior con el Sol a 3h UT. Mercurio pasa al cielo matutino.
- 2 Luna cerca de Antares (cielo nocturno) a las 20h UT.
- 4 La Tierra en Afelio (más alejada del Sol) a las 12h UT. La distancia entre el Sol y la Tierra es de 1.016694 UT o unos 152,1 millones de km.
- 5 Eclipse lunar penumbral de 3:07 a 5:52 UT, con un eclipse medio a las 4:30 UT. Se ve mejor en el medio del eclipse. Visible desde las Américas, el suroeste de Europa y África. No visible en España
- 5 Luna llena a las 4:44 UT.
- 5 Luna cerca de Júpiter (cielo nocturno) a las 23h UT. Mag. -2.7.
- 6 Luna cerca de Saturno (cielo nocturno) a las 10h UT. Mag. 0.2.
- 8 Venus en su momento más brillante a las 12h UT. Mag. -4.5.
- 11 Luna cerca de Marte (cielo matutino) a las 22h UT. Mag. -0.7.
- 12 Venus 0,95° N de Aldebarán (40° del Sol, cielo matutino) a las 2h UT. Mags. -4,5 y 0,9.
- 12 Luna en apogeo (la más alejada de la Tierra) a las 19h UT (distancia 404.199 km; tamaño angular 29,6').
- 12 Luna en cuarto menguante a las 23:30 UT.
- 14 Júpiter en oposición (opuesto al Sol) a las 8h UT. La mejor hora para observar el planeta más grande del sistema solar. Mag. -2.8.
- 16 Luna cerca de las Pléyades a las 8h TU (cielo matutino).
- 17 Luna, Venus y Aldebarán dentro de un círculo de diam. 4.1° (cielo matutino) a las 2h UT. Mags. -4.5 y 0.9.
- 19 Luna cerca de Mercurio (cielo matutino) a las 5h UT. Mag. 0.9.
- 20 Luna cerca de Castor (cielo matutino) a las 6h UT.
- 20 Luna cerca de Pólux (cielo matutino) a las 10h UT.
- 20 Luna Nueva a las 17:32 UT. Comienzo de la lunación 1207.
- 20 Saturno en oposición (frente al Sol) a las 22h UT. El planeta anillado está en su punto más cercano y brillante en mag. +0.1. Los anillos de Saturno son espectaculares incluso en un telescopio pequeño.
- 22 Mercurio en la mayor elongación al oeste (20° del Sol, cielo matutino) a las 15h UT. Mag. 0.3.
- 23 Luna cerca de Regulus (cielo nocturno) a las 0h UT.
- 25 Luna en perigeo (la más cercana a la Tierra) a las 5:05 UT (distancia 368.361 km; tamaño angular 32,4').
- 26 Luna cerca de Spica (cielo nocturno) a las 19h UT.
- 27 luna en cuarto creciente a las 12:33 UT.
- 30 Luna cerca de Antares (cielo nocturno) a las 3h UT.
- Todas las horas son en Tiempo Universal (UT). ¡Cielos despejados hasta el próximo mes!