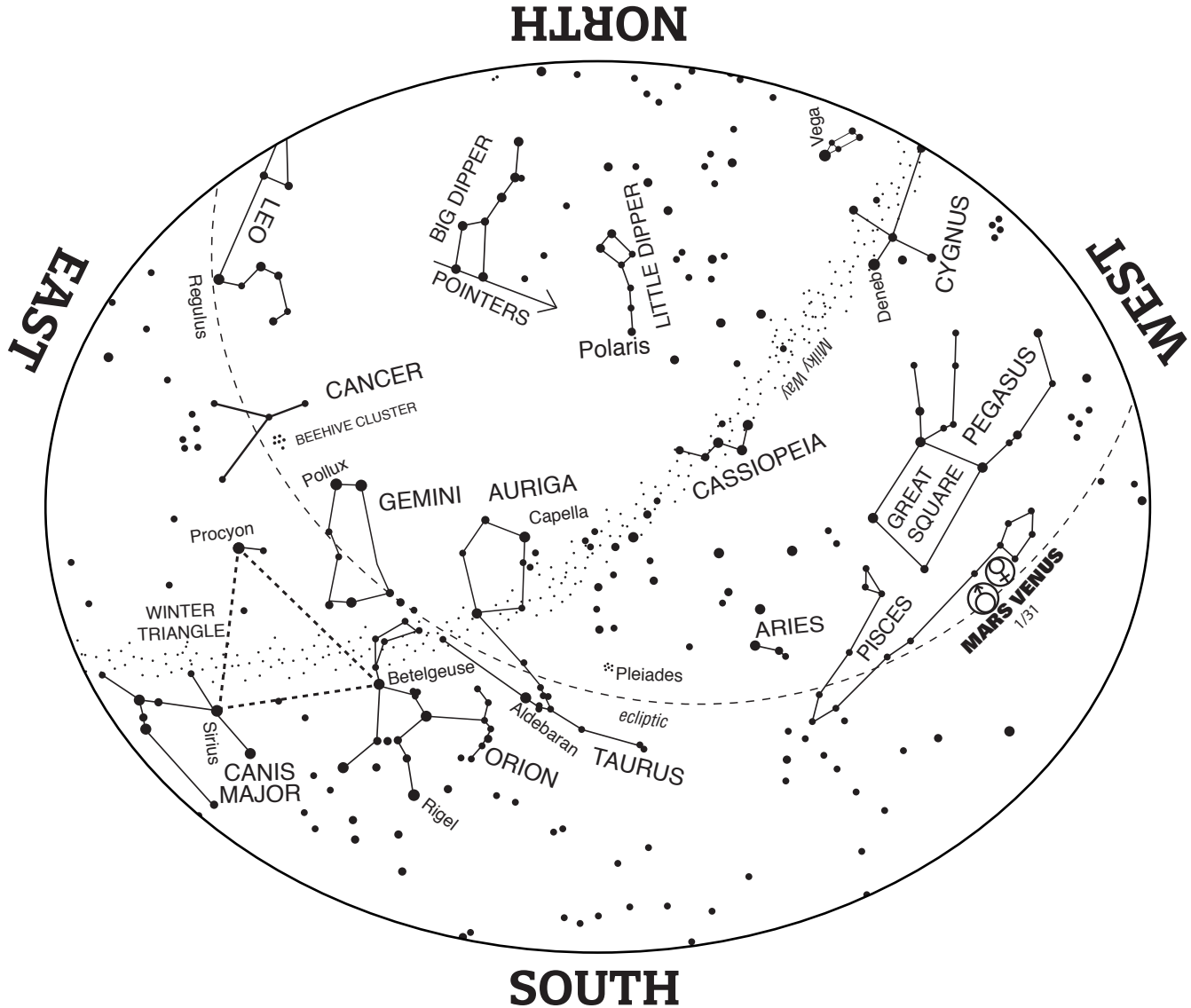


Starmap

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017



601 Light Street • Baltimore's Inner Harbor
410.685.5225 • www.marylandsciencecenter.org



TO USE MAP:

Hold the map in front of you so that the direction you are facing is on the bottom. The stars on the lower half on the map will match up with the stars in the sky. The center of the map is directly overhead in the sky. Constellation and star pattern names are all capitalized. Names of stars have only the first letter capitalized. The map is valid within an hour of:

8:30pm Mid-Jan. EST
6:30pm Mid-Feb. EST

MAGNITUDE is a measure of a star's brightness. The lower the number, the brighter the star

- 1st or brighter magnitude star
- 2nd magnitude star
- 3rd magnitude star
- 4th or fainter magnitude star










ECLIPTIC:

The imaginary path of the Sun through the year. Constellations of the Zodiac surround the Ecliptic and the Moon and planets appear along it.

Starmap

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017

IN THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY SKY

- Jan 2 Moon near Venus 
- Jan 3 Moon near Mars
Quadrantid meteors peak (See *Celestial Highlights*)
- Jan 4 Earth at Perihelion (See *Celestial Highlights*) 
-  Jan 5 First quarter Moon
- Jan 9 Moon near Aldebaran
-  Jan 12 Full Moon
Venus at greatest elongation (See *Celestial Highlights*)
-  Jan 13 Observe Venus Night
- Jan 15 Moon near Regulus
-  Jan 19 Last Quarter Moon near Jupiter
Mercury at greatest elongation (See *Celestial Highlights*)
- Jan 24 Moon near Saturn 
- Jan 25 Moon near Mercury  = Observatory events
-  Jan 27 New Moon
- Jan 31 Moon near Mars and Venus (See *Celestial Highlights*)



- Feb 3 First quarter Moon
- Feb 5 Moon near Aldebaran
- Feb 9 Moon near Beehive Cluster
- Feb 10 Full Moon near Regulus
Observe Venus Night
- Feb 15 Moon near Jupiter
- Feb 18 Last quarter Moon
- Feb 20 Moon near Saturn
- Feb 26 New Moon

CELESTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Quadrantid meteors peak January 3 - with up to 120 meteors per hour. The crescent Moon sets in early evening, lending towards an excellent meteor shower. A meteor (bit of debris in the solar system) burns up passing through Earth's atmosphere as a quick flash or streak of light. A meteor shower is many meteors named for the constellation they radiate from. Look for the Quadrantids (named after Quadrans Muralis, a constellation not on modern star maps) near the Big Dipper from late night January 3 into January 4.

Earth at Perihelion, January 4 - Perihelion is a planet's closest point to the Sun in its annual elliptical orbit. This year, Earth reaches perihelion on January 4, with a distance of 91,404,322 miles making it closer to the Sun than the average distance of 93,000,000 miles. Despite the variable distance between the Earth and the Sun, changing temperatures and seasons are caused by the tilt of the Earth.

Greatest elongations, Venus on January 12, Mercury on January 19 - The best time to view the inner planets Venus and Mercury, is when they are at their highest above the horizon in the sky. Even when these planets are at their highest, they are still low in the sky. Look for Venus low in the western sky just after sunset on January 12 and Mercury low in the eastern sky before sunrise on January 19.

Observatory special - Observe Venus Nights, January 13 and February 10 - Join Maryland Science Center staff for a special edition of our weekly "Friday Night Stargazing" to enjoy a view of the brilliant planet Venus. Through our telescope you can see that Venus is a planet that goes through phases (it's not always a Full phase). (Observatory is open weather permitting, see below for details.)

Mars and Venus with the Moon, January 31 - The Moon forms a triangle with Mars and Venus on January 31. Venus is the brighter of the two planets. Notice Mars' subtle pinkish color.

The bi-monthly STARMAP is available on the web at <http://www.mdsci.org/pdf/Planetarium/STARMAP.pdf>

CROSBY RAMSEY MEMORIAL OBSERVATORY INFO 410-545-2999

Free public observing nights are held Friday evenings, weather permitting. Observatory hours are 5:30-9:00 p.m. The Observatory is also open Saturdays from 1:00-4:00 p.m., included in Maryland Science Center admission. Please call after 5:00 p.m. on Friday or after 12 noon on Saturday for observing conditions.



MERCURY

When: Before sunrise
Where: Low in southeast
Constellation: Sagittarius, Capricornus, Aquarius



VENUS

When: After sunset
Where: Low in southwest
Constellation: Aquarius, Pisces



MARS

When: Evening sky
Where: Southwest
Constellation: Aquarius, Pisces



JUPITER

When: Before sunrise
Where: East
Constellation: Virgo



SATURN

When: Before sunrise
Where: East
Constellation: Ophiuchus, Sagittarius