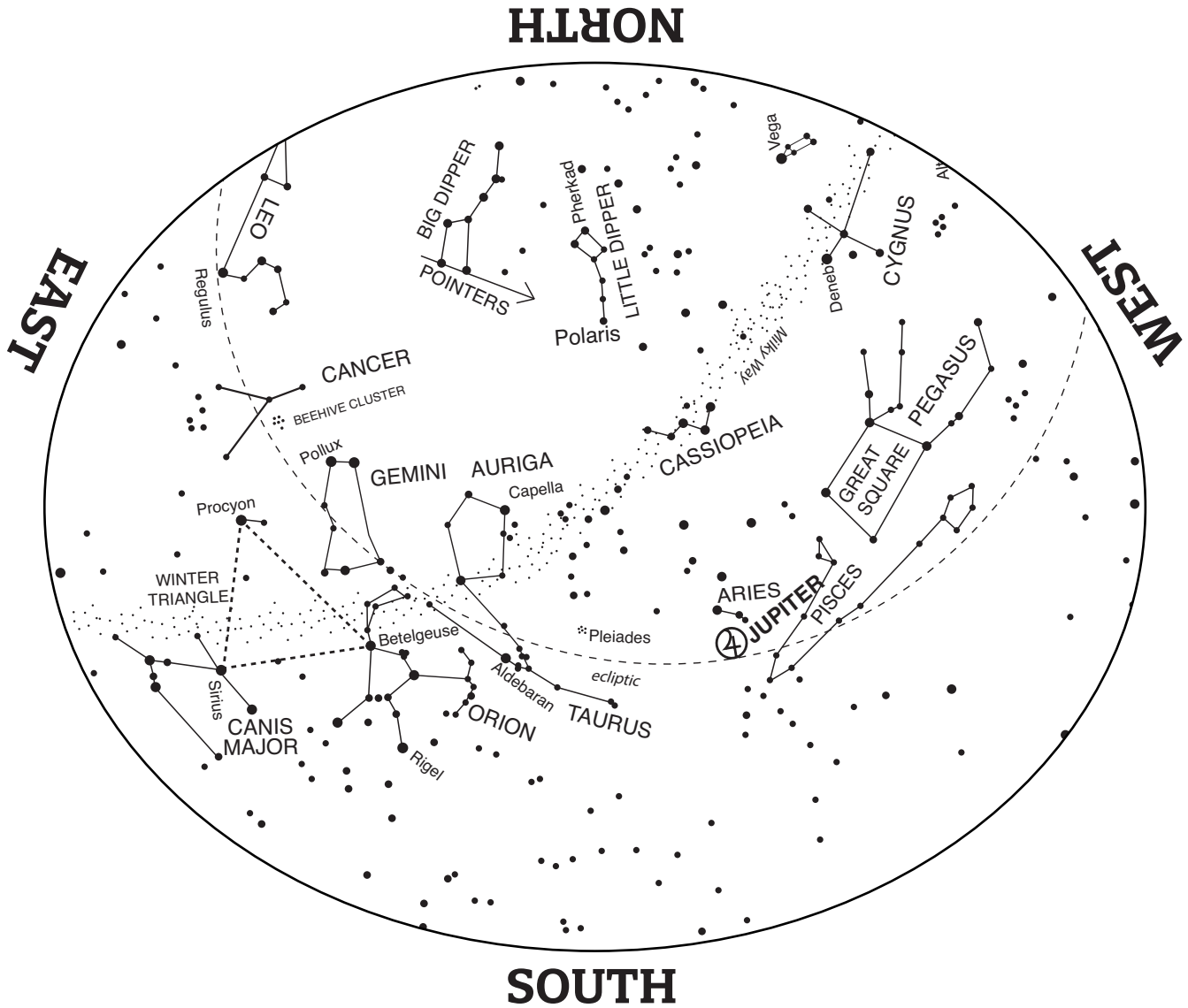


Starmap

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024



601 Light Street • Baltimore's Inner Harbor
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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 2024

IN THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY SKY

Jan. 2 Earth at Perihelion	Feb. 1 Moon near Spica
 Jan. 3 Last Quarter Moon Quadrantid meteors peak (See Celestial Highlights)	 Feb. 2 Last Quarter Moon
Jan. 7 Mercury at its highest point (morning)	 Feb. 9 New Moon
Jan. 8 Moon near Venus (See Celestial Highlights)	Feb. 10 Moon near Saturn
 Jan. 11 New Moon	Feb. 14/15 Moon near Jupiter (See Celestial Highlights)
Jan. 13 Moon near Saturn (See Celestial Highlights)	 Feb. 16 First Quarter Moon near Pleiades
 Jan. 17 First Quarter Moon	Feb. 20 Moon near Pollux
Jan. 18 Moon near Jupiter	Feb. 22 Venus near Mars (morning) (See Celestial Highlights)
Jan. 19 Ursae Minorid meteor shower (See Celestial Highlights)	Feb. 23 Moon near Regulus
Jan. 20 Moon near Pleiades	 Feb. 24 Full Moon
Jan. 24 Moon near Pollux	Feb. 27/28 Moon near Spica
 Jan. 25 Full Moon	
Jan. 27 Moon near Regulus	

CELESTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

QUADRANTID METEORS PEAK JANUARY 4 AFTER SUNSET –

Meteoroids are bits of debris from comets that burn up passing through Earth's atmosphere creating a quick flash or streak of light called a "meteor" or "shooting star." A meteor shower is a high frequency of meteors that seem to come from one area of the sky. Meteor showers are usually named for the constellation that they radiate from, but in the case of the Quadrantids (named after Quadrans Muralis), the constellation is no longer used on modern star maps. Look for Quadrantid meteors on the night of January 4. Around 9pm look low in the horizon North-Northwest to see the shower. To find the shower later in the night find the Big and Little Dipper form a line drawing through Polaris and Pherkad (the star at the tip of the Little Dipper opposite of Polaris) follow this line until you are below the handle of the Big Dipper. The shower will start December 12 and last until January 12.

MOON AND PLANET PAIRINGS –

Just before sunrise on January 8 the Moon and Venus will rise in the Southeast and Venus will be left of the Moon. Just after sunset on January 13 Saturn will be directly above the Moon. Jupiter will be the brightest object next to the Moon on January 18 until it sets at midnight. Just after sunset on February 15 Jupiter will be just below the Moon. Just before sunrise on February 18, Mars will be below Venus look just above the horizon South-Southeast.

URSAE MINORID METEOR SHOWER PEAK

JANUARY 19 – This shower will start January 15 and last until January 25. Look at Polaris and follow the Little Dipper in the sky to find the shower on the opposite side of the Dipper. The shower is at a circumpolar position and will not set so it will be visible throughout the night.

The bi-monthly STARMAP is available on the web at <https://www.mdsci.org/learn/resources/starmaps/>

THE OBSERVATORY AT THE MARYLAND SCIENCE CENTER INFO

Safe solar viewing is offered Saturdays from 1:00pm-4:00pm, weather permitting (admission included with Science Center admission).



MERCURY

When:

Before sunrise, January
Not visible, February

Where:

Low in Southeast, January
Not visible, February

Constellation:

Ophiuchus, Sagittarius,
Capricornus, Aquarius



VENUS

When:

Before Sunrise

Where:

Low in Southeast

Constellation:

Scorpius, Ophiuchus,
Sagittarius, Capricornus



MARS

When:

Not Visible, January
Before Sunrise, after
February 15

Where:

Low in Southeast

Constellation:

Sagittarius, Capricornus



JUPITER

When:

Evening sky

Where:

Southwest to West

Constellation:

Aries



SATURN

When:

Just After Sunset, January
Not Visible, February

Where:

West-Southwest, January
Not visible, February

Constellation:

Aquarius