

Starmap

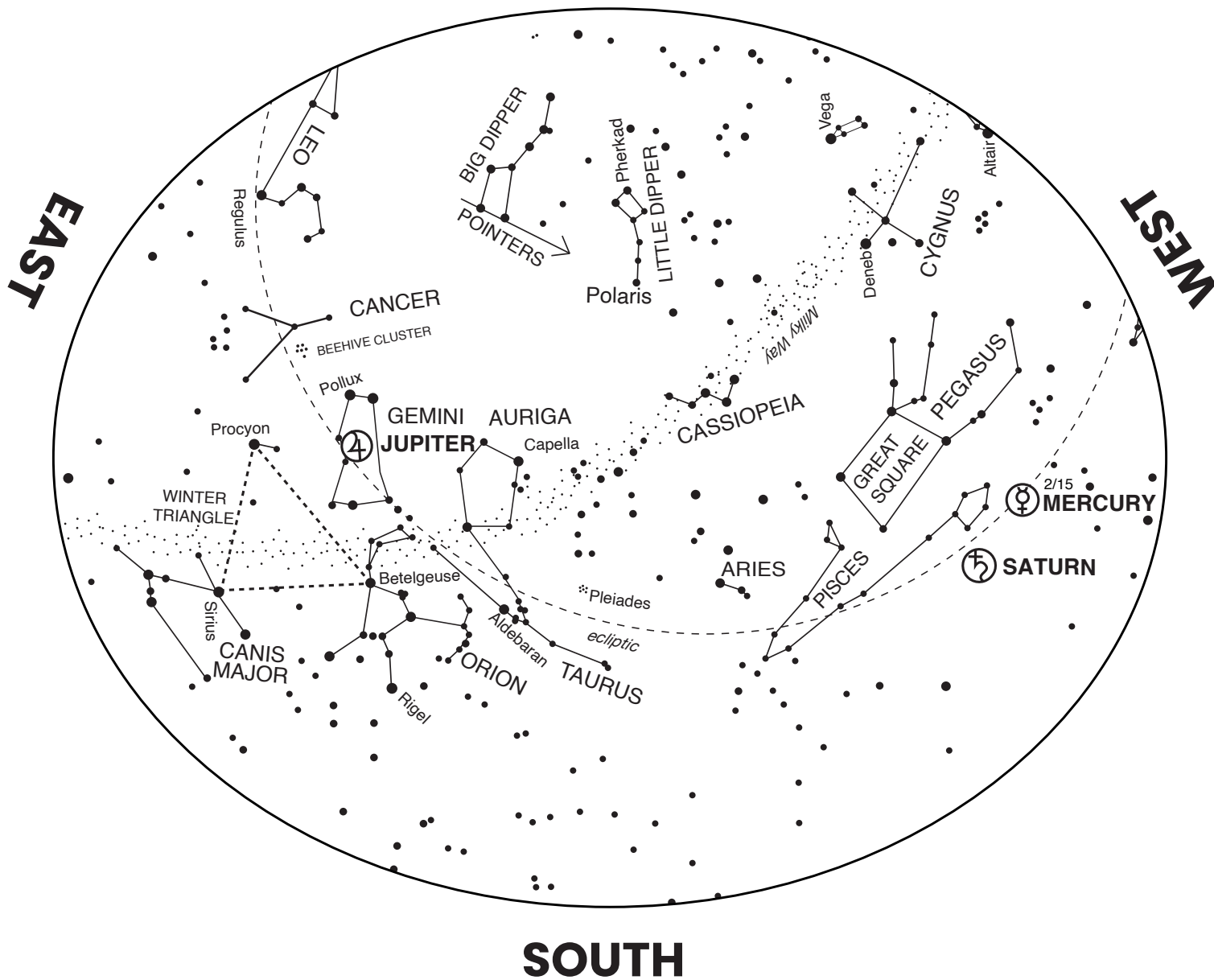
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026



MARYLAND
SCIENCE
CENTER

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NORTH



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-JANUARY EST
6:30pm Mid-FEBRUARY 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 2026

IN THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY SKY

- **January 3**
Full Moon near Jupiter
Quadrantid meteor shower peaks
(See Celestial Highlights)
- **January 6**
Moon near Regulus
Venus at solar conjunction
- **January 9**
Mars at solar conjunction
- ◐ **January 10**
Last Quarter Moon
Jupiter in Opposition
(See Celestial Highlights)
- **January 14**
Moon near Antares (morning)
- **January 18**
New Moon
- **January 21**
Mercury at solar conjunction
(See Celestial Highlights)
- **January 23**
Moon near Saturn and Neptune
- ◐ **January 25**
First Quarter Moon
- **January 30**
Moon near Jupiter
- **February 1**
Full Moon
- **February 2**
Moon near Regulus
- ◐ **February 9**
Last Quarter Moon
- **February 10**
Moon near Antares (morning)
- **February 15**
Saturn near Neptune
- **February 17**
New Moon
- **February 18**
Moon near Mercury
- **February 19**
Mercury at greatest elongation
Moon near Saturn
(See Celestial Highlights)
- ◐ **February 24**
First Quarter Moon
- **February 26**
Venus near Mercury
Moon near Jupiter

CELESTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Planet and Moon Groupings – The Moon is between the star Pollux and the planet Jupiter in the northeastern sky on January 3. Jupiter and the Moon are seen together again on January 30 and February 26. Saturn appears above the crescent Moon after sunset on January 22 and below to the left of the Moon on February 19. On February 18, Mercury is the brightest object next to a thin crescent Moon low in the western sky.

Jupiter at Opposition, January 10 – Jupiter is at opposition when it is at the opposite position in the sky from the Sun. Jupiter is visible the entire night with the planet passing almost directly above around midnight.

Planetary Conjunction – In astronomy, a conjunction is the opposite of opposition, when two objects are seen close to each other in the sky. Three planets will be in conjunction with the Sun in January: Venus on January 6, Mars on January 9, and Mercury on January 21. Planets in conjunction with the Sun are not visible.

Quadrantid Meteor Shower – The Quadrantid meteor shower peaks on January 3 with up to 200 meteors per hour. Find the shower next to the constellation Boötes, near the northeastern horizon just after midnight.

The Observatory at the Maryland Science Center info:
Safe solar viewing is offered Saturdays from 1:00pm–4:00pm, weather permitting (entry included with Science Center admission).

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



MERCURY

When:
January: not visible
Starting February 5:
after sunset

Where:
January: not visible
February: low in West

Constellation:
Capricornus, Aquarius,
Pisces



VENUS

When:
January: not visible
Starting February 10:
after sunset

Where:
January: not visible
Starting February 10:
low in West

Constellation:
Aquarius



MARS

When:
Not visible

Where:
Not visible

Constellation:
Not visible



JUPITER

When:
All night

Where:
Moving East to West

Constellation:
Gemini



SATURN

When:
Evening

Where:
Southwest

Constellation:
Aquarius, Pisces