

Starmap

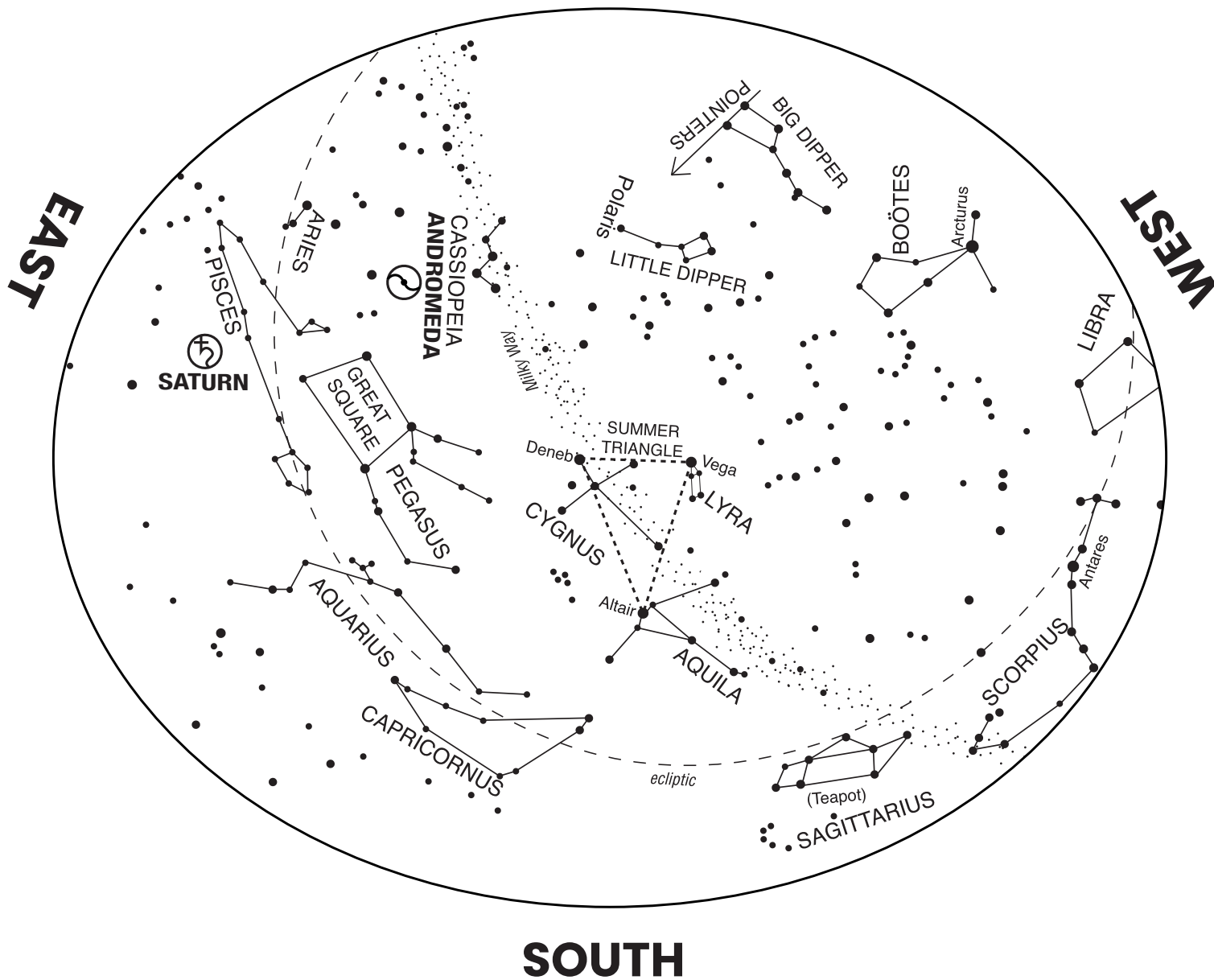
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026



MARYLAND
SCIENCE
CENTER

601 Light Street • Baltimore's Inner Harbor
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NORTH



SOUTH

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:

9:30pm Mid-September EDT

7:30pm Mid-October EDT

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

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026

IN THE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER SKY

- ☾ **September 4**
Last Quarter Moon
- ☾ **September 6**
Moon near Mars
(See Celestial Highlights)
- ☾ **September 8**
Moon near Jupiter
- **September 10**
New Moon
- ☾ **September 14**
Moon near Venus
- ☾ **September 18**
First Quarter Moon
- ☾ **September 19**
International Observe the Moon Night
(See Celestial Highlights)
- ☾ **September 22**
Fall Equinox
(See Celestial Highlights)
- **September 26**
Full Moon
- ☾ **September 27**
Moon near Saturn

- ☾ **October 2**
Andromeda visibility
(See Celestial Highlights)
- ☾ **October 3**
Last Quarter Moon
- ☾ **October 4**
Saturn at Opposition
(See Celestial Highlights)
- ☾ **October 5**
Moon near Mars
- ☾ **October 6**
Moon near Jupiter
- **October 10**
New Moon
- ☾ **October 18**
First Quarter Moon
- ☾ **October 24**
Moon near Saturn
- **October 26**
Full Moon

CELESTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Planet and Moon Groupings – On the mornings of September 6th and October 5th the moon will be very close to Mars. Just before dawn on September 8th and October 6th, a crescent moon will appear near bright Jupiter. On the evening of September 14th, spot Venus and the crescent moon on the western horizon. An almost full moon will shine near Saturn on September 27th and October 26th. On October 4th Saturn will be directly opposing the sun, making it visible in the sky throughout the whole night.

International Observe the Moon Night – The night of September 19th is dedicated to observing our closest neighbor. Take a pair of binoculars or a telescope and look along the terminator line, the line between the light and dark parts of the moon, to see craters up close and explore the moon's surface with your own eyes!

Fall Equinox, Tuesday, September 22, 8:04 pm EDT – The Fall Equinox marks the first day of Fall. The Equinoxes are the only two days each year when the sun rises due east and sets due west at every place on Earth! If stand at the Earth's equator at noon during the Equinox, you would see the sun pass directly overhead.

Andromeda Visibility – Grab a pair of binoculars or a telescope and look to the northern sky for an out of this galaxy view. The Milky Way's sister is at its highest point in the sky on October 2nd. Find the constellation Cassiopeia, which looks like a big W, look for the lowest star in the W and follow the outer line of the W like an arrow until you find a fuzzy cloud in the sky, that's the Andromeda galaxy!

The Observatory at the Maryland Science Center offers safe solar viewing on Saturdays from 10:30am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-4:00pm, weather permitting (included with Science Center admission).

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

EVENTS

Telescope Training Workshop – Do you have a telescope at home but aren't quite sure how to use it? Grab your telescope and join us at the Maryland Science Center for our hands-on Telescope Training workshops on September 26th, October 10th, and November 21st. This 30-minute one-on-one workshop is perfect for people who are eager to learn how to set up, align, and confidently start using their own telescope. Learn more and register at <https://www.mdsci.org/events/telescope-training/>.

Urban Astronomy Workshop – Think city lights make stargazing impossible? Think again! Join us in the evenings of September 17th, October 1st, October 9th, or October 15th for a special workshop where you'll get a guided tour of the nighttime sky, right from the roof of the Maryland Science Center. Using our observatory and smaller telescopes, you'll have the chance to view planets, bright stars, and other celestial highlights that shine through urban light pollution. Our expert guides will point out visible constellations, share tips for stargazing in the city, and explain what makes the autumn sky unique. Learn more and register at <https://www.mdsci.org/events/urban-astronomy/>.



MERCURY

When:
Not visible in September
Visible early October
after sunset

Where:
Western horizon

Constellation:
Virgo, Libra



VENUS

When:
Visible September
after sunset
Visible late October
before sunrise

Where:
Western horizon,
Eastern horizon

Constellation:
Virgo



MARS

When:
Visible after 2 am

Where:
Eastern sky

Constellation:
Gemini, Cancer



JUPITER

When:
Visible before sunrise

Where:
Eastern horizon

Constellation:
Cancer, Leo



SATURN

When:
Visible all night

Where:
High in the sky

Constellation:
Pisces