

Starmap

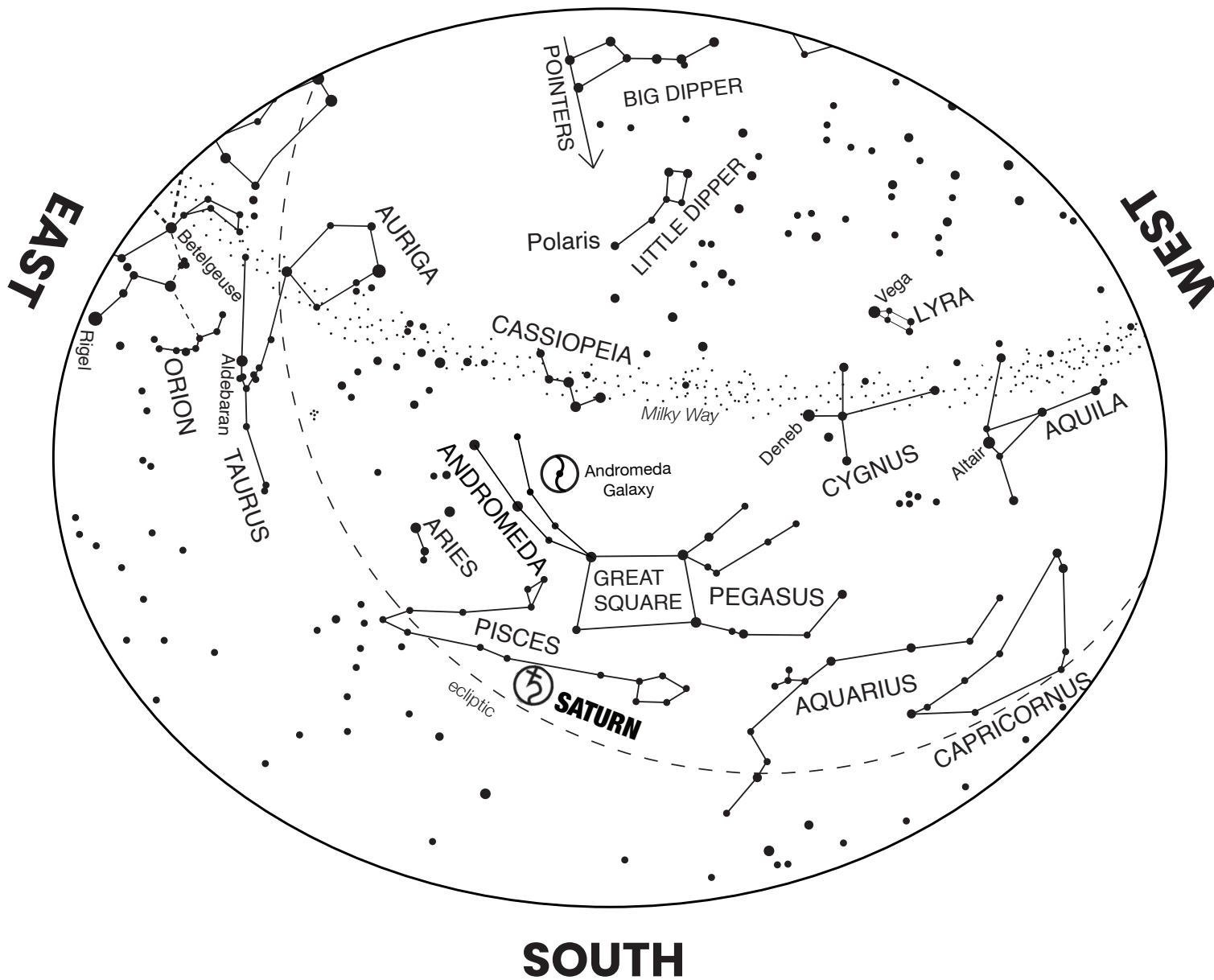
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2026



MARYLAND
SCIENCE
CENTER

601 Light Street • Baltimore's Inner Harbor
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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-November EST
6:30pm Mid-December 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

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2026

IN THE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER SKY



November 1

Last Quarter Moon
Daylight Savings ends
(See Celestial Highlights)

November 2

Moon near Mars and Jupiter
(See Celestial Highlights)

November 7

Moon near Venus



November 9

New Moon

November 15

Jupiter near Mars



November 17

First Quarter Moon

November 19

Mercury at highest altitude
in morning sky
(See Celestial Highlights)

November 20

Moon near Saturn



November 24

Full Moon



November 30

Last Quarter Moon
Moon near Mars and Jupiter

December 5

Moon near Venus



December 8

New Moon

December 14

Geminid Meteor Shower
Venus at highest altitude
in morning sky
(See Celestial Highlights)



December 16

First Quarter Moon

December 17

Moon near Saturn

December 21

Winter Solstice
(See Celestial Highlights)



December 23

Full Moon

December 27

Moon near Jupiter

December 28

Moon near Mars



December 30

Last Quarter Moon

CELESTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Daylight Savings Ends Sunday, November 1st, 2 am – Set your clocks back an hour on the night of October 31st, and enjoy an extra hour of sleep, or trick-or-treating.

Planet and Moon Groupings – On the mornings of November 2nd and 30th the moon will appear very close to red Mars and bright Jupiter. Mars and Jupiter will be closest to each other in the sky on November 15th. By December, the two planets will be farther apart, with the moon passing Jupiter on December 27th and passing Mars on December 28th. A thin crescent moon will join Venus in the dawn sky on November 7th and December 5th. The moon will shine near Saturn on November 20th and December 17th.

Best Inner Planet Viewing – The inner planets Mercury and Venus are often difficult to see because they always appear close to the sun where they can be washed out by the sun's bright light. Mercury will reach its highest point away from the sun on November 19th, shining above the south-east horizon before sunrise. Brighter Venus will reach its highest point on December 14th, to the east in the dawn sky.

Geminids Meteor Shower Peak, December 14th – Locate the twin stars of Gemini in the eastern sky after 6pm on December 14th to find the Geminid Meteor Shower, with a peak activity of 120 meteors per hour. The moon will set early in the evening, providing good dark conditions. A meteor shower occurs when the Earth passes through debris left behind by a comet. When these remnants hit our atmosphere, they burn up and create a bright streak of light in the sky. The shower starts on December 4th and ends on December 17th.

Winter Solstice, December 21st – This is the shortest day of the year for the Northern Hemisphere as the Sun takes its lowest path across the sky, which results in the fewest hours of daylight of any day all year (only 9 hours). In Baltimore, the sun will rise at 7:23am and set at 4:44pm. All through winter, celebrate the slow return of the Sun and notice how the days start to get longer again.

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 workshop on 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/>



MERCURY

When:

Visible late November and early December before sunrise

Where:

Eastern horizon

Constellation:

Virgo, Libra



VENUS

When:

Visible before sunrise

Where:

Eastern horizon

Constellation:

Virgo, Libra



MARS

When:

Visible several hours after sunset

Where:

Eastern sky

Constellation:

Leo



JUPITER

When:

Visible several hours after sunset

Where:

Eastern sky

Constellation:

Leo



SATURN

When:

Visible all evening

Where:

Western sky

Constellation:

Pisces