

The Evening Sky Map

FREE* EACH MONTH FOR YOU TO EXPLORE, LEARN & ENJOY THE NIGHT SKY

Sky Calendar – November 2014

Get Sky Calendar on Twitter
<http://twitter.com/skymaps>

How to locate south in the southern tropics

The usual method for finding south in the southern hemisphere is by using the Southern Cross and the Pointers. But as they are situated close to the South Celestial Pole (SCP), in the summer months in Central Australia (latitude 25°S), the Southern Cross does not 'rise' (or become visible) until the early hours of the morning. As such, navigators need another reference for finding south. And this is it: south can be found using the stars Canopus and Achernar. With the SCP, these two stars roughly form an equilateral triangle.

To find south using Canopus and Achernar

Two other constellations, the Belt of Orion, and Sirius (also called the Dog Star), along with Canopus and Achernar – describe an asymmetric arc in the night sky.

1. Locate the Belt of Orion.
2. Locate Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. It is in the opposite direction to (and in a straight line through Orion's Belt from) Pleiades (or 7 Sisters).
3. Locate Canopus, the second brightest star in the night sky. The angle of the arc of Sirius–Canopus from Orion–Sirius is about 135°, and the length of the Sirius–Canopus axis is about 1½ times that of Orion–Sirius.
4. Finally, locate Achernar, the brightest star in the constellation Eridanus. The angle of the arc of Canopus–Achernar from Sirius–Canopus is about 135°, and the length of the Canopus–Achernar axis is about the same as that of Orion–Sirius.
5. Using the location of Canopus and Achernar, project a third point outside the arc (on the convex side) which would form an equilateral triangle (a triangle where all sides are the same length). This projected point is the South Celestial Pole. (It lies roughly on the extension of the Sirius–Canopus axis). Drop a plumb line from the SCP to the horizon and you have south, accurate to within a few degrees.



SAVE ON RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS • <http://Skymaps.com/store>

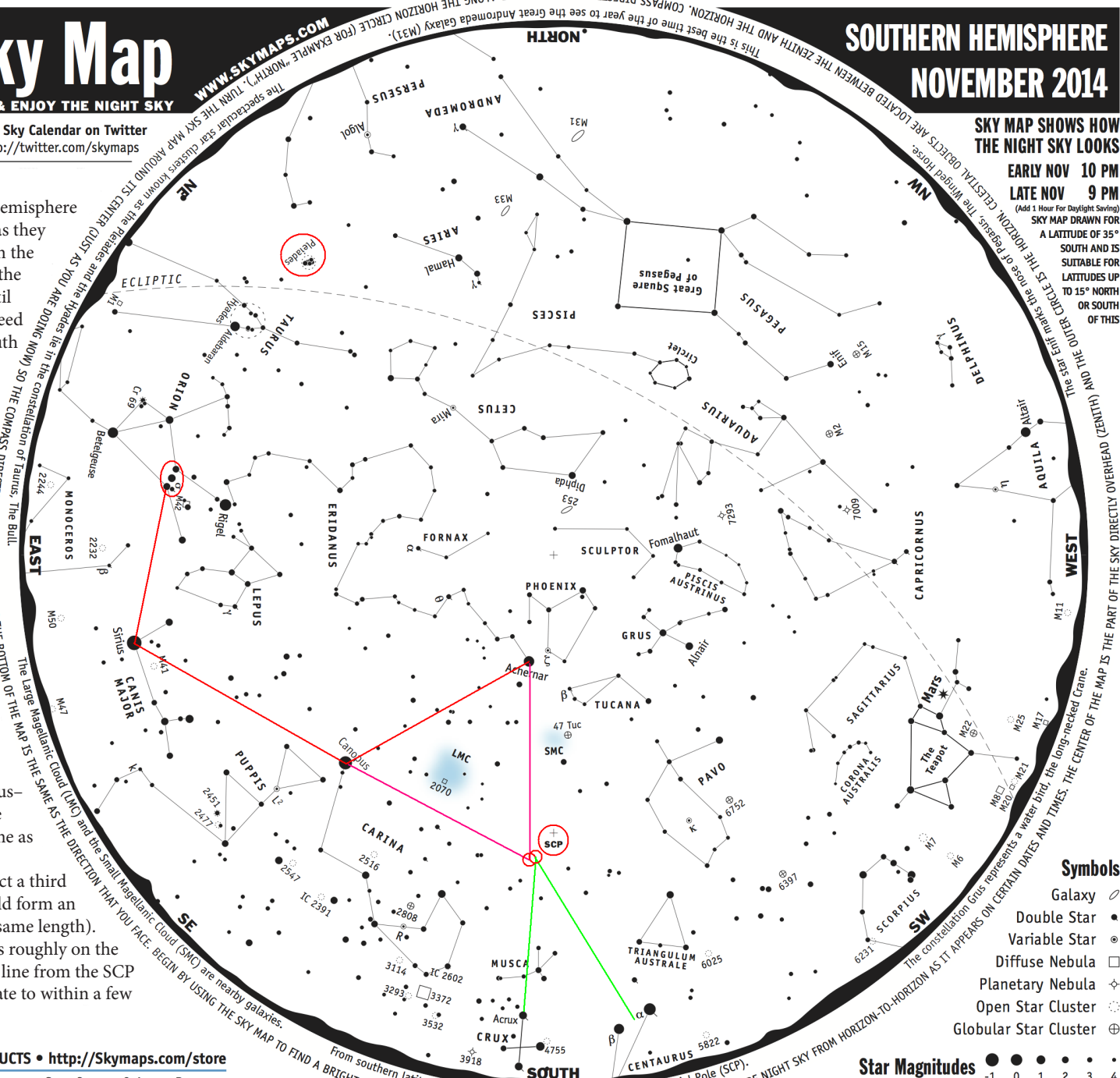
- STAR ATLASES & PLANISPHERES
 - STAR CHARTS & ASTRO POSTERS
 - BOOKS FOR SKY WATCHERS
 - TELESCOPES & BINOCULARS
- All sales support the production and free distribution of The Evening Sky Map.

SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE NOVEMBER 2014

SKY MAP SHOWS HOW
THE NIGHT SKY LOOKS

EARLY NOV 10 PM
LATE NOV 9 PM

(Add 1 Hour For Daylight Saving)
SKY MAP DRAWN FOR
A LATITUDE OF 35°
SOUTH AND IS
SUITABLE FOR
LATITUDES UP
TO 15° NORTH
OR SOUTH
OF THIS



Symbols

- Galaxy ○
- Double Star ●
- Variable Star ⊙
- Diffuse Nebula □
- Planetary Nebula ◇
- Open Star Cluster ○
- Globular Star Cluster ⊕

Star Magnitudes ● -1 0 1 2 3 4

Copyright © 2000–2014 Kym Thalassoudis. All Rights Reserved.

* TERMS OF USE: FREE FOR NON-COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL USE. ASTRONOMY EDUCATION GROUPS MAY FREELY DISTRIBUTE PRINTED HANDOUTS. FULL DETAILS AT <http://Skymaps.com/terms.html>