

AUGUST ĀKUHATA SKY GUIDE

Hercules

Hercules is named after the Roman version of the Greek god, Heracles. This constellation is connected to multiple other constellations due to the 12 Labours of Heracles, which were the tasks given to Heracles by the Mycenaean King, Eurystheus. The first labour was to kill the Nemean Lion, which the constellation Leo is said to represent. The second task was to kill the multi-headed monster, Hydra, represented by the Hydra constellation. During the battle with the Hydra a giant crab was sent to distract him, which is represented by the constellation Cancer.

Hercules is the fifth largest constellation in the sky, but has no first magnitude stars in it, making stars and deep space objects in Hercules difficult to find. For example, Messier 13 (also known as the Great Globular Cluster) is easily seen with a small telescope but is hard to find due to few visual aids. The Arecibo message, a series of beeps broadcast into space in 1974 to let any hypothetical extraterrestrials know about our planet, was sent in the direction of this globular cluster.

To find Hercules, look at the horizon due north to find the Keystone asterism, four stars that form an uneven square, this represents Hercules' body. Messier 13 can be found one third of the way between the two western stars in the Keystone asterism.



Polus Antarcticus from Uranographia by Johannes Hevelius. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Dark Constellations

The Incan Empire was the largest pre-Columbian empire in the Americas, stretching from Ecuador to Chile, from 1438 to 1533. The Inca recognized two different types of constellations in the sky – luminous constellations, which were formed by connecting stars and represented inanimate objects, and dark cloud constellations that represented animals. These dark constellations are said to be the silhouettes of animals who had come to drink from the life-giving river in the heavens, the Mayu (Milky Way). Yacana, the llama, was the most important of these dark cloud constellations. It consists of two llamas, a mother and a baby, stretching between Scorpius and the Southern Cross. The bright stars alpha- and beta-centauri mark the mother llamas eyes.

In Australia, this same galactic dust cloud marks the body of a dark constellation called Dinewan, the emu, who is considered the king of the birds in Dreamtime legend. He is seen flying across the sky, his legs stretching along the Milky Way. The Coalsack Nebula, next to the Southern Cross, represents his head.

To find Yacana and Dinewan, look high in the southwestern sky and find the bright stars alpha- and beta-centauri. The dark constellations will appear upside down in the sky.

Remember a moment in time with a personalised star chart from Otago Museum!

Each chart shows the position of stars, constellations, planets, the phase of the moon and the sun for the exact time, date and location of your special event.

Save 10% on your chart by enjoying a show in the Perpetual Guardian Planetarium while you wait!

Place your order at the Museum Shop.

THE SKY TONIGHT TE ĀHUA O TE RAKI I TĒNEI PŌ



AUGUST ĀKUHATA SKY GUIDE

PERPETUAL
GUARDIAN
PLANETARIUM

OTAGOmuseum

MOON MARAMA PHASES

Phase

Date

New moon

Thursday 1 August

1st quarter

Thursday 8 August

Full moon

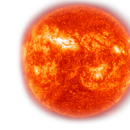
Friday 16 August

3rd quarter

Saturday 24 August



AUGUST ĀKUHATA 2019



SUN RĀ RISE / SUNSET

Date

Rise

Set

Thursday 1

7.58am

5.30pm

Thursday 15

7.38am

5.47pm

Saturday 31

7.10am

6.06pm

SPOTTING SATELLITES

A lot of man-made satellites are visible to the naked eye. You can see up to a hundred a night if you have a keen eye and good viewing conditions. To find a satellite in the sky, go to an area with little to no light pollution on a clear night. Scan the sky until you find what looks like a star moving across the sky slowly and steadily. Satellites don't blink like planes, so the light from them will be constant. They may disappear if they go behind the shadow of the earth.

The easiest to spot is the International Space Station (ISS) because it is both large and bright, sometimes even appearing as bright as Venus. You can track the ISS to see when it will pass over you next at:

spotthestation.nasa.gov

Hercules

Jupiter + Saturn

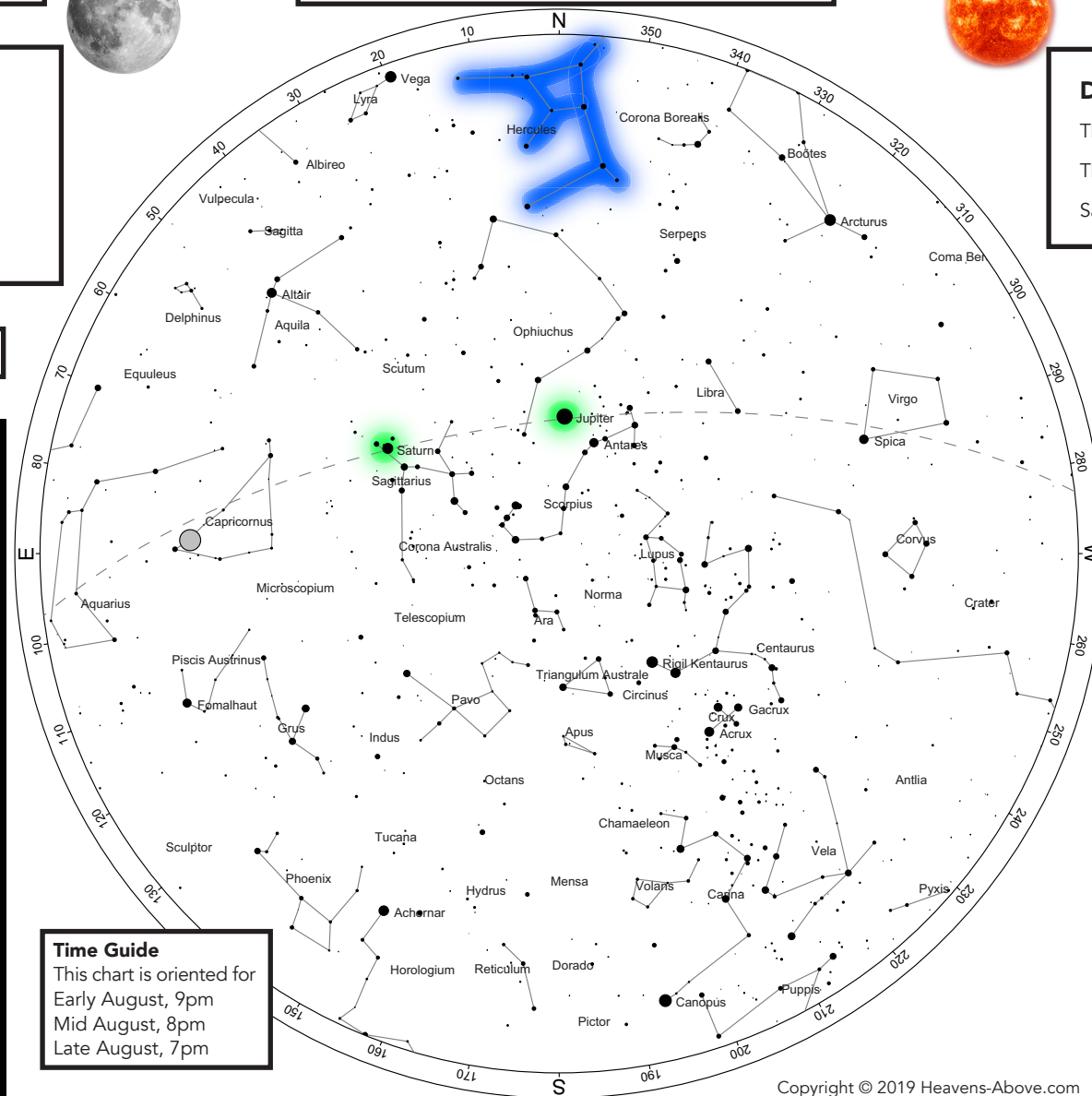
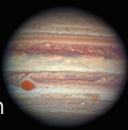
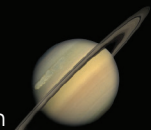
PLANETS WHETŪ AO

Saturn Pareārau

1 August until 6.48am
15 August until 5.50am
31 August until 4.45am
In Sagittarius

Jupiter Hine-i-tiweka

1 August until 4.34am
15 August until 3.39am
31 August until 2.39am
In Ophiuchus



Time Guide

This chart is oriented for
Early August, 9pm
Mid August, 8pm
Late August, 7pm

How to use this chart: Hold the chart up to the sky and rotate it, so the direction you are looking matches the direction printed on the bottom. For example, if you are looking south, place "S" at the lower edge. Stars rise in the east and set in the west like the sun. As the Earth turns, the sky appears to rotate clockwise around the south celestial pole. The sky makes a small shift to the west every night, as the Earth rotates around the sun.

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