DAVIS PLANETARIUM

Starmap

MARCH/APRIL 2025

MARYLAND SCIENCE CENTER
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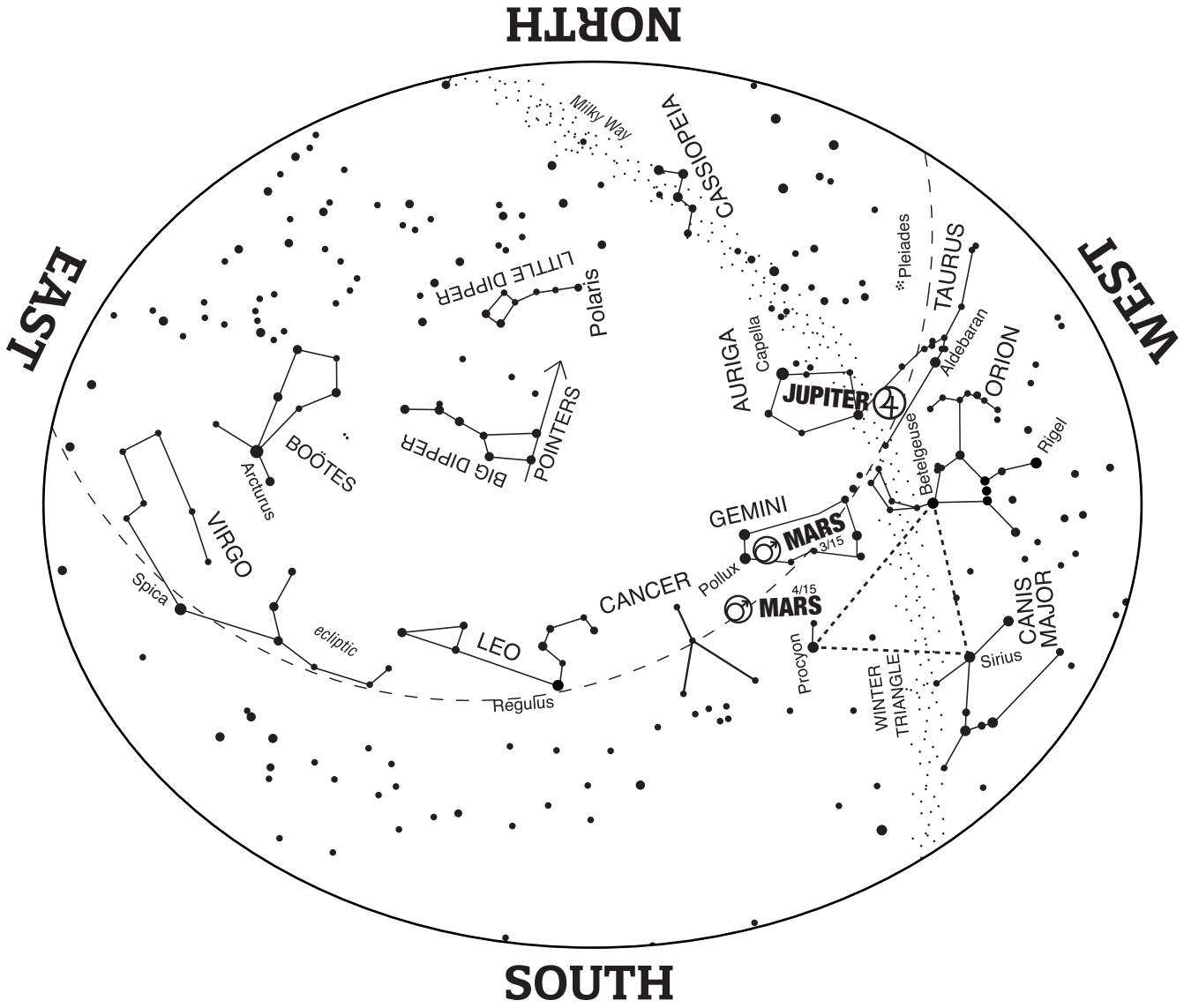

TO USE MAP:
Hold the map in front of you so that the direction you are facing is on the bottom. The stars on the lower half on the map will match up with the stars in the sky. The center of the map is directly overhead in the sky. Constellation and star pattern names are all capitalized. Names of stars have only the first letter capitalized. The map is valid within an hour of:
11:30pm Mid-Mar EST
9:30pm Mid-Apr 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.

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IN THE MARCH/APRIL SKY

Mar. 1
Moon near Venus

Mar. 6
First Quarter Moon
Moon near Jupiter

Mar. 7
Mercury at its greatest elongation east
(See Celestial Highlights)

Mar. 8
Moon near Mars

Mar. 9
Daylight Savings Starts
(See Celestial Highlights)

Mar. 14
Full Moon
Total Lunar Eclipse
(See Celestial Highlights)

Mar. 20
Vernal Equinox
(See Celestial Highlights)

Mar. 22
Last Quarter Moon

Mar. 29
New Moon

Apr. 2
Moon near Jupiter

Apr. 4
First Quarter Moon

Apr. 5
Moon near Mars

Apr. 12
Full Moon

Apr. 20
Last Quarter Moon

Apr. 25
Moon near Venus and Saturn

Apr. 27
New Moon

Apr. 28
Venus near Saturn

Apr. 30
Moon near Jupiter

CELESTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

PLANET AND MOON GROUPINGS – On March 1, the Moon and Venus set together on the western horizon and are the brightest objects in the night sky. The Moon chases Jupiter through the night sky on March 6 before both set just after midnight. The Moon and Mars are nestled close together under the twin stars of Gemini throughout the night of March 8. Jupiter is the brightest object next to the Moon on April 2. The Moon chases Mars throughout the night of April 5. On April 25, the Moon, Saturn, and Venus rise together right before sunrise in the eastern horizon. Venus and Saturn rise together on the morning of April 28. Jupiter follows the Moon in setting just after sunset on April 30.

MERCURY AT ITS GREATEST ELONGATION EAST – On March 7, Mercury is at its farthest Eastern separation from the Sun in our sky. This event makes Mercury its most visible. Look for Mercury just after sunset on the western horizon. It will shine next to Venus as they both set about an hour after sunset.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS, SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2:00AM – Remember to turn your clocks forward one hour before going to bed Saturday night!

TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE, MARCH 14 – A Total Lunar Eclipse happens when the Sun, Earth, and Moon align with Earth in the middle. Starting around 1am on March 14 the Moon passes into the shadow of the Earth giving it a red tint. This red tint is from sunlight passing through the Earth's atmosphere, which scatters blue light, as though the Earth is projecting a sunset onto the Moon. The Moon is fully covered in the shadow around 2:30am, giving it a dark red color, and stays fully covered for an hour. The Moon exits Earth's shadow around 4:50am and returns to its normal colors.

VERNAL EQUINOX, TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 5:01AM – The Vernal Equinox marks the first day of spring. The Equinoxes are the only two days each year when the sun rises due east and sets due west everywhere on Earth! If you happen to be standing at the Earth's equator at noon during the Equinox, the sun passes directly overhead.

The bi-monthly STARMAP is available on the web at *https://www.mdsci.org/learn/resources/starmaps/*

THE OBSERVATORY AT THE MARYLAND SCIENCE CENTER INFO
Safe solar viewing is offered Saturdays from 1:00pm-4:00pm, weather permitting (admission included with Science Center admission).

MERCURY
When:
First Half of March: Visible after sunset
April: Not visible
Where:
Western Horizon
Constellation:
Pisces

VENUS
When:
First Half of March: Visible just after sunset
Last Half of April: Visible just before sunrise
Where:
March: Western Horizon
April: Eastern Horizon
Constellation:
Pisces

MARS
When:
Visible
Where:
High in the sky moving towards the Western Horizon
Constellation:
Gemini, Cancer

JUPITER
When:
March: Visible until midnight
April: Visible after sunset
Where:
Western sky
Constellation:
Taurus

SATURN
When:
March: Not Visible
Last Half of April: Visible just before sunrise
Where:
Eastern Horizon
Constellation:
Aquarius, Pisces