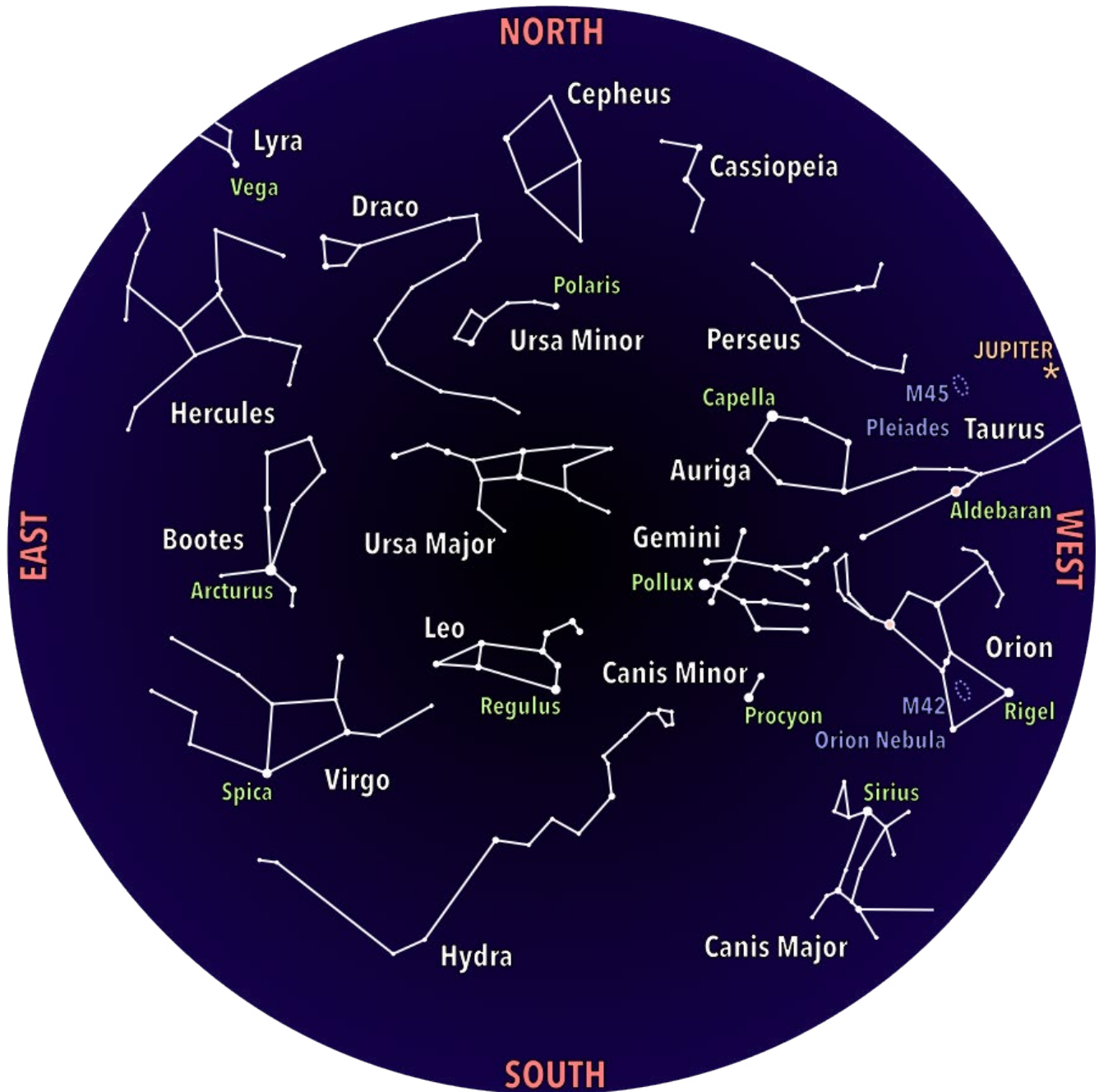


Spring 2024

Buhl Planetarium & Observatory



ASTRONOMICAL CALENDAR & STAR CHART



Night sky from Pittsburgh, PA 9:30 pm EST mid-April

SKYWATCH

The 2024 calendar is live! Buy tickets to upcoming SkyWatch events at CarnegieScienceCenter.org.



THIS SEASON'S SKYGAZING TOP PICKS

March 13 — Jupiter/Moon conjunction. West-Southwest

March 14 — Crescent Moon and M45 – Pleiades – conjunction. Southwest.

March 25 — Full Worm Moon. Penumbral Lunar Eclipse.

April 2 — Comet 12P/Pons-Brooks near brightness. 20 degrees above Western horizon.

April 8 — Solar Eclipse. 97% totality at 3:17 pm.

April 22 — Lyrids Meteor shower. Midnight to dawn. Hercules radiant point.

May 12 — Globular Cluster Messier 5 (M5), visible all night. Binocular viewing.

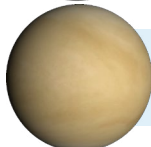
May 23 — Full Flower Moon. Sunset to Sunrise. Moon/Antares occultation. 9:35–10:08 pm. Low Southeast.

May 31 — Moon/Saturn conjunction. East-Southeast.

SPRING PLANET VISIBILITIES



Mercury (morning): Brief appearances late March dusk. Dawn in May.



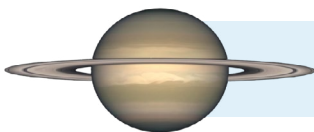
Venus (morning): March, April pre-dawn.



Mars (morning): April, May pre-dawn.



Jupiter (evening): March and April



Saturn (morning): April, May pre-dawn.

MOON PHASES KEY

New Moon ● First Quarter ◐ Full Moon ○ Third Quarter ◑

MOON PHASES

March 3: ◐ 10: ● 17: ◑ 25: ○

April 1: ◐ 8: ● 15: ◑ 23: ○

May 1: ◐ 7: ● 15: ◑ 23: ○ 30: ◑

WHAT'S UP? Solar Eclipse

On Mon., April 8, The Great American Eclipse is sweeping through town. The Sun, Moon, and Earth will briefly be in perfect alignment. Nowhere else in the solar system does this exact phenomenon take place. It only happens about every two years on Earth and rarely over largely populated areas. We will experience 97% totality in Pittsburgh. That means we won't get the full shadow of the Moon covering us, but we will get a once-in-a-lifetime show. Be ready with your safe viewing glasses!

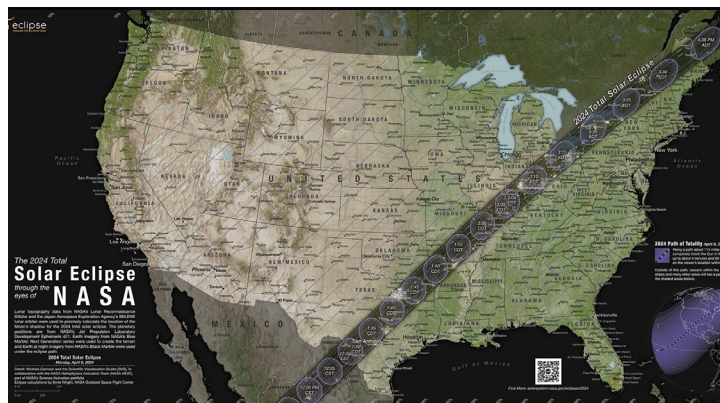


Image credit: NASA's Scientific Visualization Studio

GET YOUR ECLIPSE GLASSES AT THE XPLOR STORE!

SPACE NEWS:

Peregrine One Mission

Peregrine Mission One made a controlled re-entry into Earth's atmosphere on Jan. 18. Although an anomaly kept the mission from landing on the Moon, Peregrine soared to lunar distance and back, successfully collecting data for NASA's future Artemis missions. The next day, Japan's space agency JAXA, watched its lander, SLIM softly reach the Moon's surface. Japan became the fifth nation to land on the Moon. However, SLIM's nose first landing kept its solar panels from receiving sunlight and power.

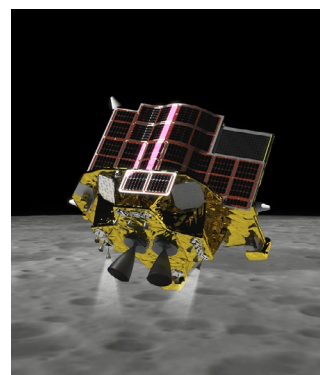


Image credit: United Launch Alliance

Image credit: ISAS/JAXA

STAR CHART FAQ



How do I use the star chart?

Hold it out in front of you with the direction you're facing at the bottom of the chart. It works even better if you hold it above your head and look up at it.

Why are east and west switched?

They are only switched because you're used to looking at maps of the ground. Hold it above your head, and you'll see the directions line up just right.