



Namibia
Scientific
Society

Science for Society

Tel.: (+264) 61 225 372

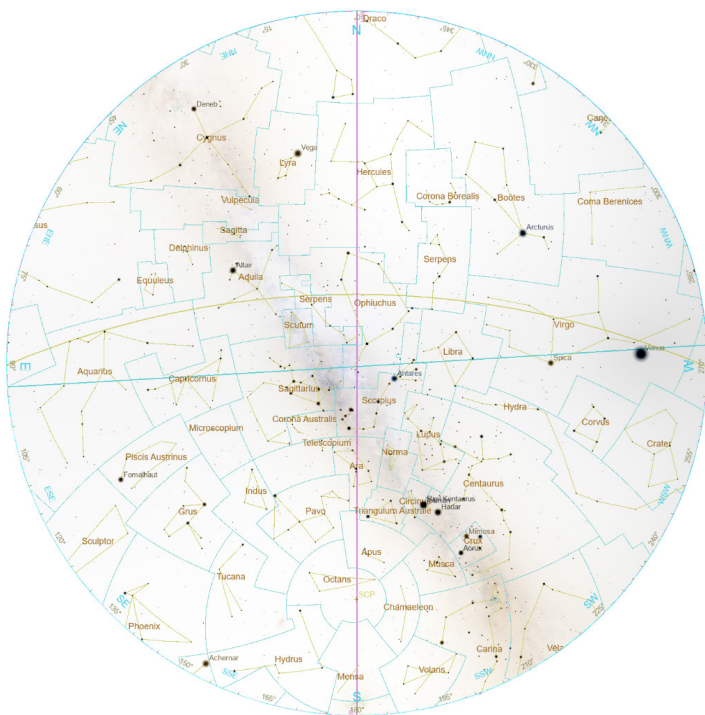
email: info@namscience.com

www.namscience.com

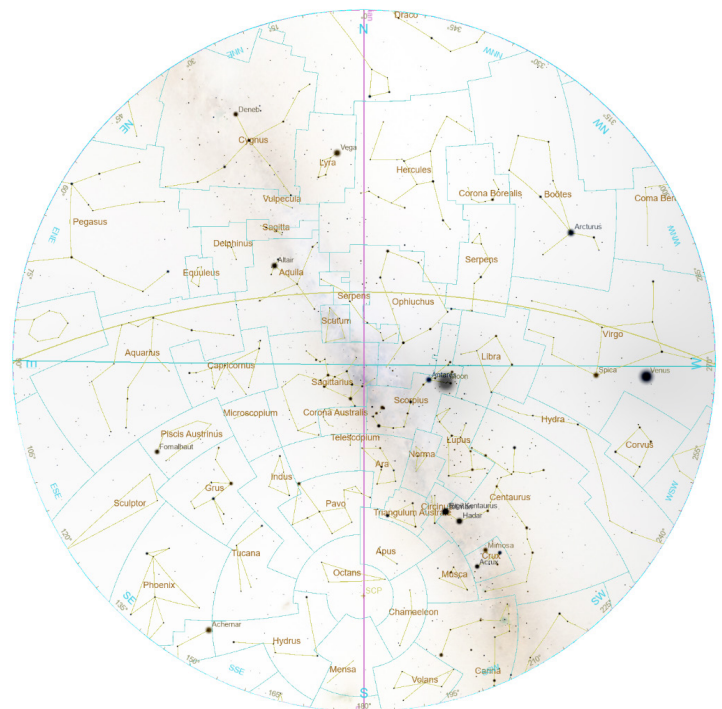
110 Robert Mugave Ave, Windhoek

Astro News August 2026

2026 by Lutz von Dewitz for the Namibia Scientific Society

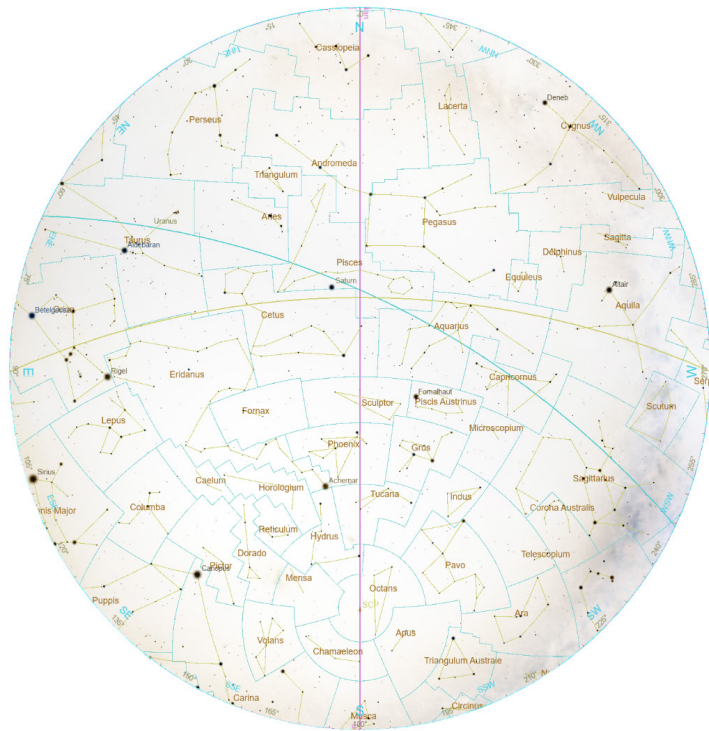


Skychart at Windhoek on 10 August 2026
at 21h00 (GMT + 2h Central African Time)

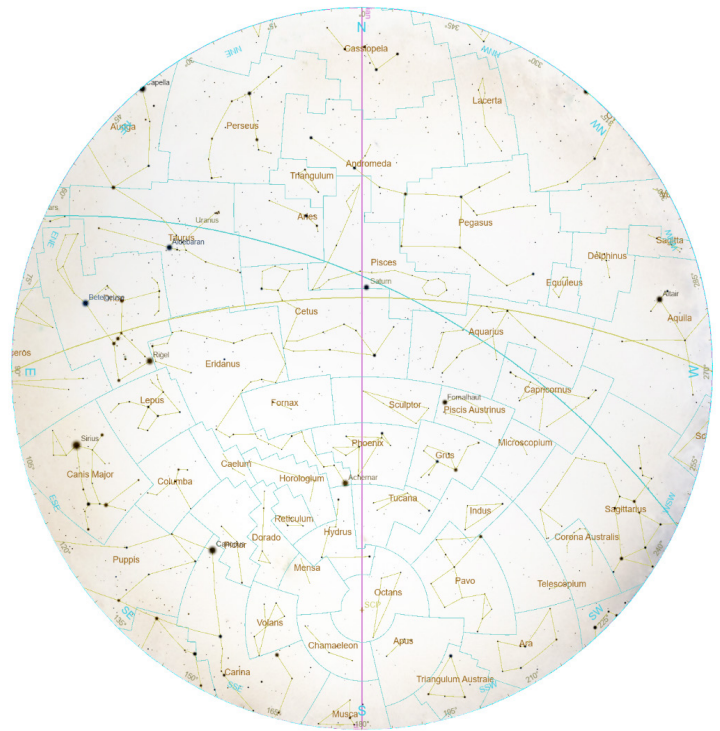


Skychart at Windhoek on 20 August 2026
at 21h00 (GMT + 2h Central African Time)

Ecliptic Line – Celestial Equator – Meridian – Constellation Borders / SCP = Southern Celestial Pole – Z = Zenith



Skychart at Windhoek on 10 August 2026
at 04h00 (GMT + 2hH Central African Time)



Skychart at Windhoek on 20 August 2026
at 04h00 (GMT + 2hH Central African Time)

Ecliptic Line – Celestial Equator – Meridian – Constellation Borders / SCP = Southern Celestial Pole – Z = Zenith

Moon Phases

29 July 2026 - Full Moon
06 August 2026 - Last Quarter
12 August 2026 - New Moon
20 August 2026 - First Quarter
28 August 2026 - Full Moon

Solar System

Planet Visibility	Rise	Culm.	Set
Mercury	06:32	12:02	17:31
Venus	09:31	15:41	21:51
Mars	04:04	09:25	14:46
Jupiter	06:34	12:05	17:36
Saturn	22:16	04:13	10:10

Planets in gray are not visible

Above Times accurate for 15 August 2026 and CAT

Mercury reaches its highest point in the sky during its July–August 2026 morning apparition on 31 July to 1 August, shining at magnitude 0.0. This apparition will be difficult to observe, with Mercury rising no higher than 16° above the horizon shortly before sunrise. The planet will be passing behind the Sun in August and September.

Venus is moving into the evening sky as it approaches greatest eastern elongation. As dusk darkens, it will become visible around 18:30, about 40° above the western horizon, before setting at about 21:50. On 18 August 2026, Venus reaches its highest altitude in the evening sky during its 2026 apparition, shining brightly at magnitude -4.3.

Mars is visible in the dawn sky, rising at 04:40 and reaching 26° above the north-eastern horizon before fading as dawn breaks around 06:50.

Jupiter recently passed behind the Sun at solar conjunction. It is not observable as it will reach its highest point in the sky during daytime.

Saturn is visible in the morning sky, becoming observable around 23:05 when it reaches 10° above the eastern horizon. It culminates at 04:13, 64° above the northern horizon, before fading into dawn twilight around 06:47, 44° above the north-western horizon.

Other Occurrences:

The **Total Solar Eclipse** on Wednesday, 12 August 2026, will occur mainly over the northern hemisphere, with totality visible from eastern Greenland to Spain. From Namibia, the eclipse will not be visible.

The **Perseid Meteor Shower** will be active from 17 July to 24 August, peaking around 13 August. Perseid meteors may be seen whenever the radiant point in Perseus is above the horizon, with better rates as it climbs higher. From Namibia, the radiant rises in the east and will reach its highest point after dawn, around 07:00 CAT, so the best viewing is likely just before dawn.

The **Partial Lunar Eclipse** on Friday, 28 August 2026, begins at 03:30, when the Moon enters Earth's shadow.

It will be visible wherever the Moon is above the horizon, including the Americas, Antarctica, Africa, and Europe. Viewing from Namibia, the Moon will be visible during the penumbral and early partial phases of the eclipse before setting below the horizon.

The key local times for the event on the morning of Friday 28 August are as follows:

- Penumbral Eclipse Begins: 03:25 AM
- Partial Eclipse Begins: 04:35 AM (*the Moon will begin to visibly darken/turn red*)
- Maximum Eclipse: 06:12 AM (*this is the deepest phase visible locally before the Moon sets*)
- Moonset: 06:40 AM (*the eclipse concludes after the Moon is no longer above the horizon*)

Constellation of the Month

Lyra

Compiled by Lutz von Dewitz



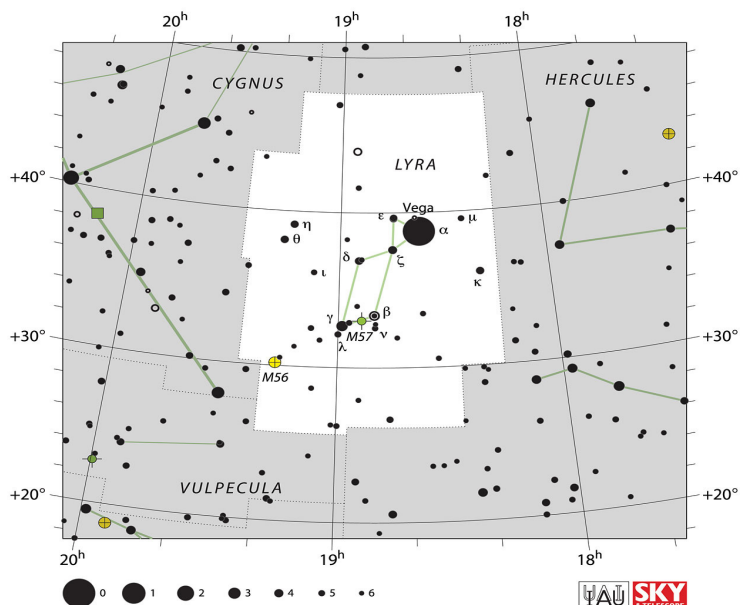
With an apparent magnitude of 0.03, it ranks as the fifth-brightest night-time star after Sirius in Canis Major, Canopus in Carina, Arcturus in Boötes, and Alpha Centauri A in Centaurus. It is also the second-brightest star in the northern sky, surpassed only by Arcturus. Vega lies about 25.04 light years from Earth.

Vega in astronomical history: Vega holds an important place in the history of astronomy. It was the first star, apart from the Sun, to be photographed, and the first whose spectrum was recorded. William Bond and John Adams Whipple captured the first image of Vega at the Harvard College Observatory on 17 July 1850. In August 1872, the American amateur astronomer Henry Draper took the first photograph of Vega's spectrum.

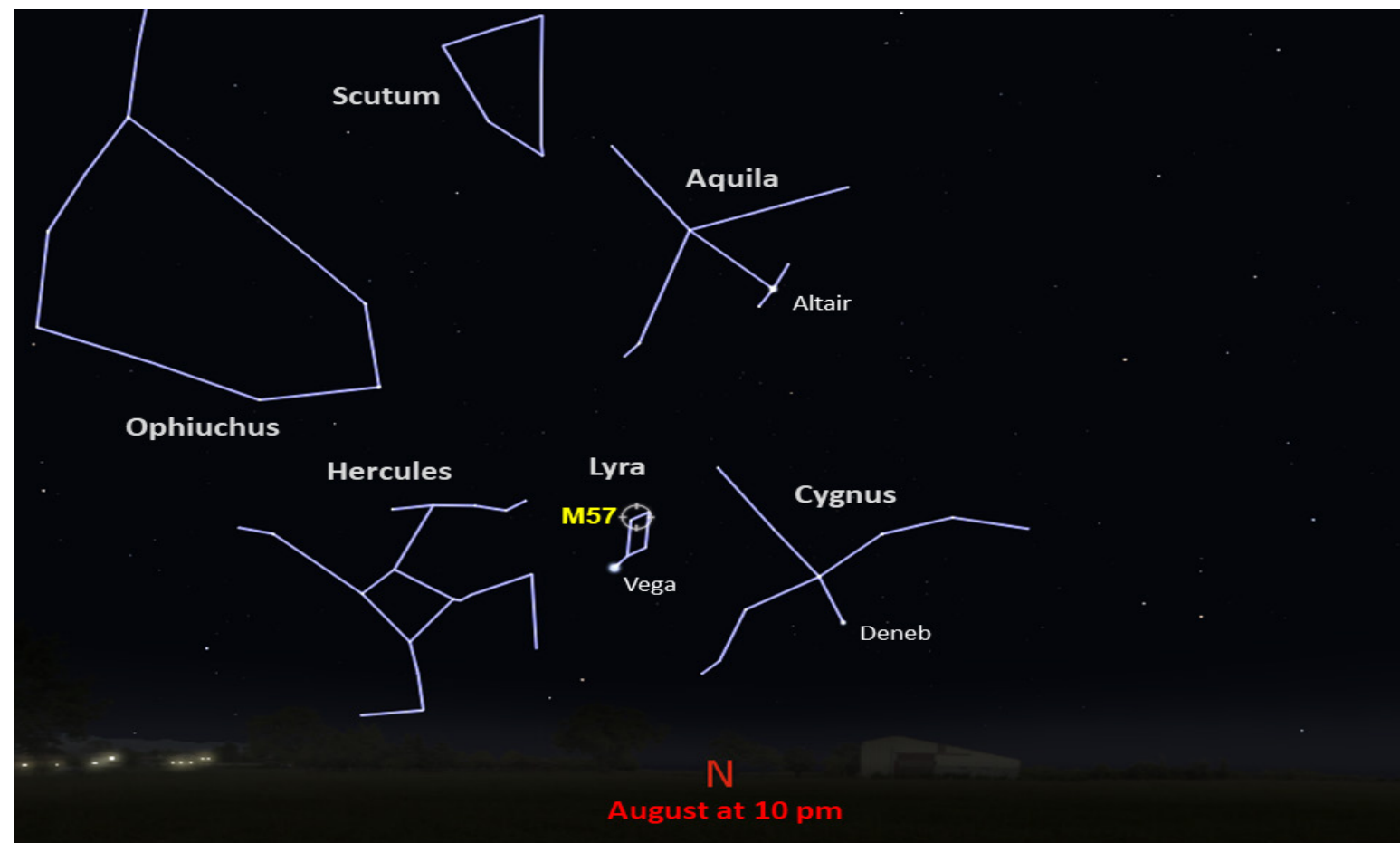
Overview: Lyra is a small constellation in the northern sky. Its name refers to the lyre, a stringed musical instrument used in antiquity and later periods.

History and mythology: Lyra was first catalogued by the astronomer Ptolemy in the 2nd century. In Greek mythology, it is associated with Orpheus, the gifted musician and poet whose music was said to charm all living things. According to the myth, after Orpheus died at the hands of the Bacchantes, his lyre was thrown into a river. Zeus sent an eagle to retrieve it, then placed both the lyre and the eagle among the stars.

Vega, Lyra's brightest star: Vega is the brightest star in Lyra and one of the most prominent stars in the night sky.



Physical properties and surrounding material. Vega is about 2.1 times as massive as the Sun and only around one tenth of the Sun's age. It is estimated to be approximately 455 million years old, which is about halfway through its expected lifetime. The star appears to have a circumstellar dust disk, indicated by its excess infrared radiation, and may have at least one Jupiter-sized planet in orbit. Lyra also contains several notable deep-sky objects, including the globular cluster Messier 56 and the planetary nebula Messier 57, better known as the Ring Nebula.



Compiled by Lutz von Dewitz

Credits:

SkyChart: Cartes du Ciel / Stellarium / Wikipedia

Data / Photos: <https://in-the-sky.org> / ASSA Sky Guide 2026, Wikipedia, constellationdirectory.org, constellation-guide.com / NASA, STScI, WikiSky, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=4576771>, ESA-Hubble