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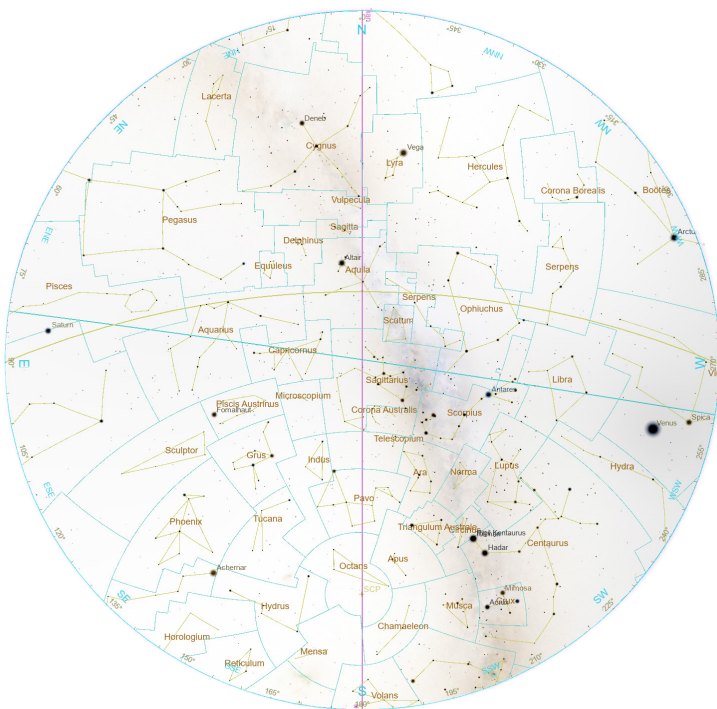
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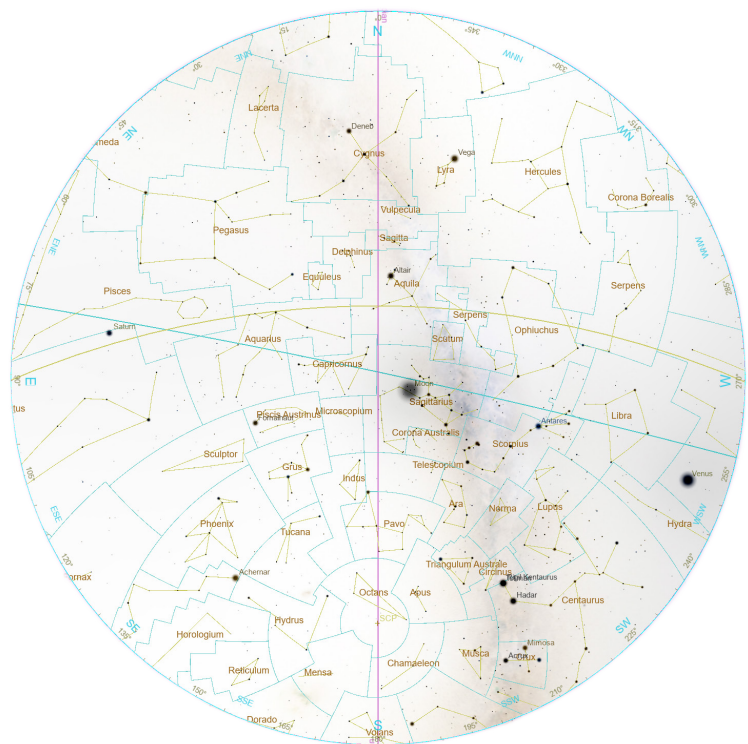
110 Robert Mugave Ave, Windhoek

Astro News September 2026

2026 by Lutz von Dewitz for the Namibia Scientific Society

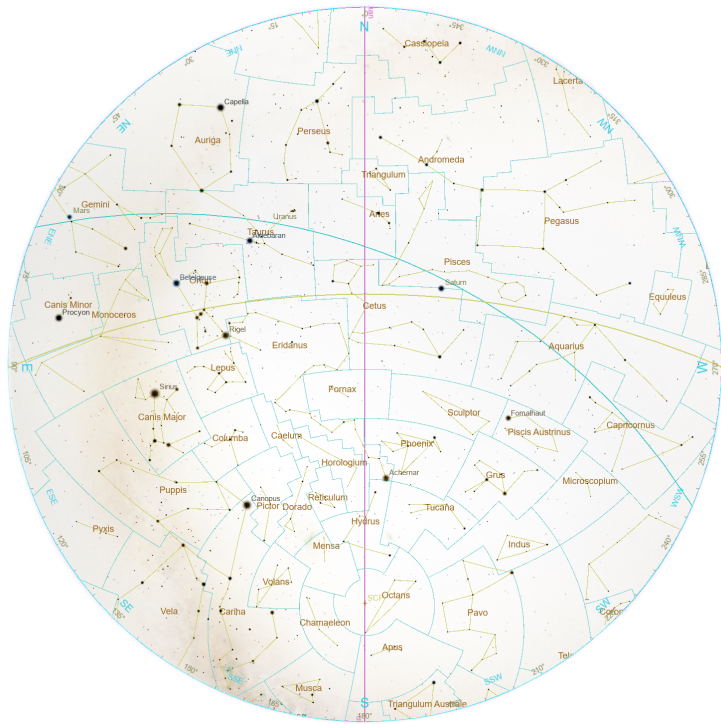


Skychart at Windhoek on 10 September 2026
at 21h00 (GMT + 2hH Central African Time)

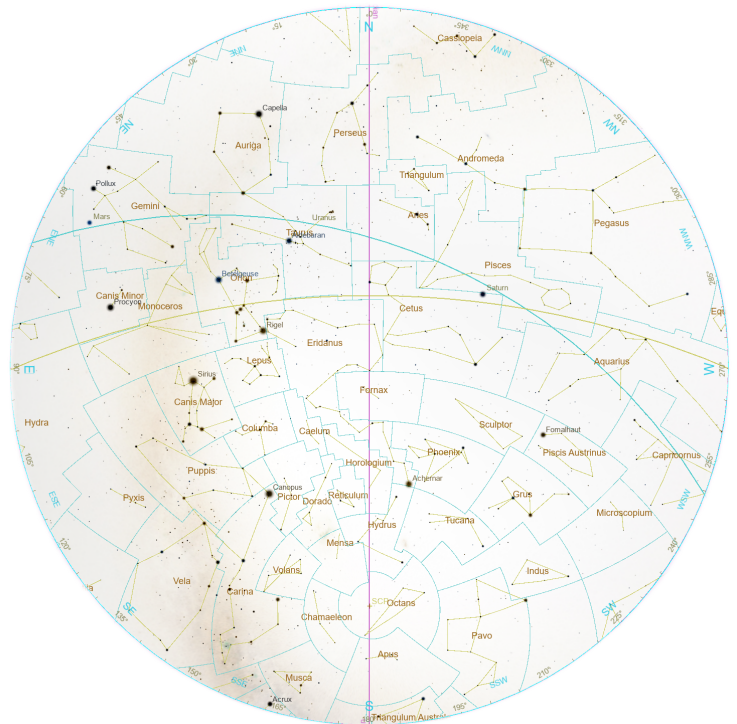


Skychart at Windhoek on 20 September 2026
at 21h00 (GMT + 2hH Central African Time)

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



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



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

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

Moon Phases

- 04 Sep 2026 – Last Quarter
- 11 Sep 2026 – New Moon
- 18 Sep 2026 – First Quarter
- 26 Sep 2026 – Full Moon

Solar System

Planet Visibility	Rise	Culm.	Set
Mercury	07:32	13:38	19:45
Venus	08:34	15:07	21:39
Mars	03:25	08:48	14:12
Jupiter	04:55	10:29	16:03
Saturn	20:07	02:05	08:04

Planets in gray are not visible
Above Times accurate for 15 September 2026 and CAT

Mercury recently passed behind the Sun at superior solar conjunction. From Namibia, it is not visible: it reaches its highest point during daylight and rises no more than 8° above the horizon at dusk.

Venus remains visible in the evening sky after recently reaching greatest eastern elongation. As dusk fades, it appears around 19:00, about 35° above the western horizon, then gradually sinks and sets at 21:30.

Mars is currently emerging from behind the Sun. It is visible in the dawn sky, rising at 03:25 and reaching an altitude of 31° above the north-eastern horizon before fading from view as dawn breaks at around 06:10.

Jupiter recently passed behind the Sun at solar conjunction. From Namibia it is visible in the dawn sky, rising at 04:55 and reaching an altitude of 19° above the north-eastern horizon before fading from view as dawn breaks. In mid-September 2026, the distance between Earth and Jupiter will be approximately 5.97 Astronomical Units (AU), which is roughly 893 million kilometres. In contrast on 29 July 2026 the distance was 6.30 AU (942 million kilometres) as Earth and Jupiter were on opposite sides of the Sun.

Saturn is approaching opposition on Sunday 04 Oct 2026. At that time, it will be 8.43 AU—about 1,260 million kilometres—from Earth. Currently it becomes visible around 20:55, reaching 10° above the eastern horizon, and climbs to its highest point at 02:05, 65° above the northern horizon.

Other Occurrences:

The Southern Star Party will be held on 11 September at the Rock Lodge 10km outside Okahandja on the B2 to Karibib. A chance to see Saturn, the main crowd-pleaser at any Stargazing event, up close. There will be Solar Telescopes and telescopes for astro photography. Only limited accommodation is available, but day (not staying the whole night) visitors are welcome.

The Moon and M45 will make a close approach, passing within $1^{\circ}12'$ of each other. The Moon will be 22 days old. The pair will be visible in the morning sky, becoming accessible around 01:35, when they reach an altitude of 12° above your north-eastern horizon. They will then reach their highest point in the sky at 05:49, 43° above your northern horizon. They will be lost to dawn twilight around

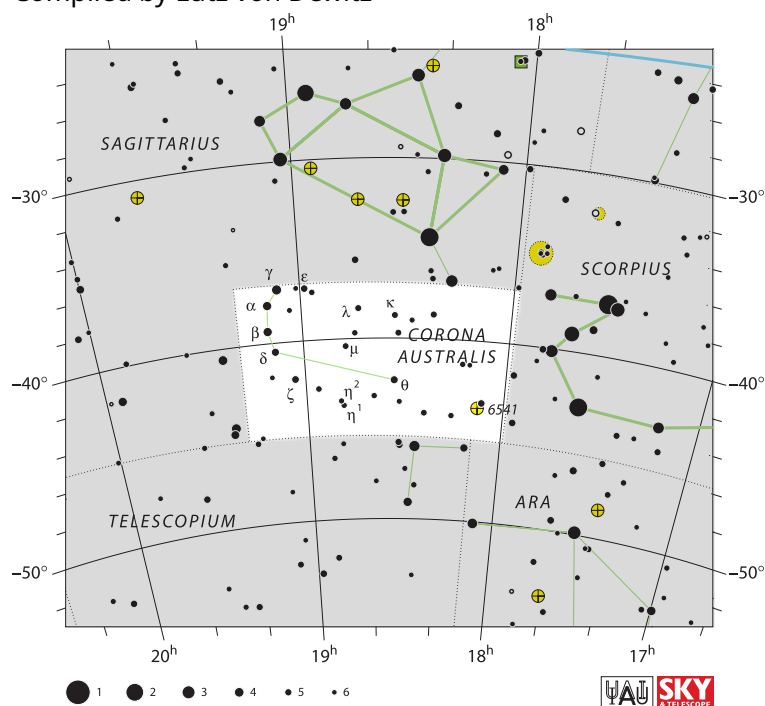
06:24, 42° above your northern horizon. Messier 45 more commonly called the Pleiades or Seven Sisters is a bright open cluster of stars, is easy to see with the unaided eye.

Close approach of the Moon and Venus on Monday 14 Sep 2026. They will be passing within a mere 28.8 arcminutes of each other. From some parts of the world, the Moon will pass in front of Venus, creating a lunar occultation. The Moon will be 3 days old. From Namibia, the pair will become visible at around 18:58, 36° above your western horizon, as dusk fades to darkness. They will then sink towards the horizon, setting at 21:40. The Moon will be at mag -10.3; and Venus will be at mag -4.5. Both objects will lie in the constellation Virgo.

Constellation of the Month

Corona Australis

Compiled by Lutz von Dewitz



Corona Australis is a small, faint constellation in the southern sky. Its Latin name means “the Southern Crown,” and it lies between Sagittarius and Scorpius.

Some sources describe it as the crown worn by the centaur represented by Sagittarius, although the constellation is not strongly linked to any single myth. It is also sometimes called Corona Austrina.

The Greek astronomer Ptolemy first catalogued Corona Australis in the 2nd century, alongside Corona Borealis, the Northern Crown. The constellation lies in the third quadrant of the southern hemisphere (SQ3) and is visible from latitudes between $+40^{\circ}$ and -90° . Its neighbouring constellations are Ara, Sagittarius, Scorpius, and Telescopium.

In English, Corona Australis is known as the Southern Crown.

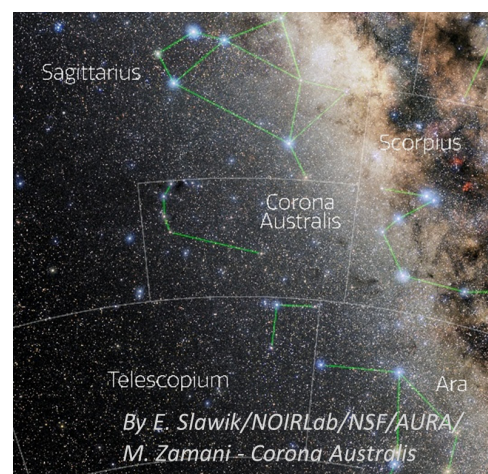
Its genitive form, used in star names, is Corone Australis. The International Astronomical Union adopted the three-letter abbreviation CrA in 1922.

Corona Australis has no stars brighter than magnitude 3.00 and none within 10 parsecs (32.6 light years) of Earth. Its brightest star is Alpha Corone Australis, also known as Meridiana, while its nearest star is HD 166348, a K6V star 42.26 light years away.

The constellation contains one formally named star: Meridiana, the IAU-approved name for Alpha Corone Australis.

Two stars in Corona Australis are known to host planets. One is HD 166724, a K-class dwarf with a long-period, wide-orbit planet discovered in 2012 and considered among the most eccentric planets with orbital periods longer than five years.

Corona Australis, the Southern Crown, was known by the Greeks as a wreath, not a crown. Before Ptolemy introduced its stars as a separate constellation, Corona Australis was



known as a circlet of stars near the forefeet of the centaur represented by the neighbouring constellation Sagittarius.

The constellation is sometimes associated with the myth of Dionysus. In the story, Corona Australis represents

the crown the god placed in the sky after freeing his mother Semele from the god of the underworld, Hades. This particular myth, however, is also sometimes associated with the Northern Crown, Corona Borealis. Ptolemy originally assigned 13 stars to the constellation Corona Australis, but one of them was later moved to the constellation Telescopi-

um, where it became Alpha Telescopii. The !Xam speaking San people of South Africa knew the constellation as ǀnabbe ta !nu “house of branches”—owned originally by the Dassie (rock hyrax), and the star pattern depicting people sitting in a semicircle around a fire.

Corona Australis stars

Meridiana – α Coronae Australis (Alpha Coronae Australis)

Alpha Coronae Australis, formally known as Meridiana, is a

class A2V star with an apparent magnitude of 4.10. It is 130 light years distant. It is the only named star in the constellation. It got its name, Alphekka Meridiana (Alphekka South) after Alphecca, the brightest star in the northern constellation Corona Borealis.

Corona Australis Nebula is a bright reflection nebula, about

420 light years distant, formed by several bright stars caught up in a dark cloud of dust. The cloud is a star-forming region,



Compiled by Lutz von Dewitz

Credits:

SkyChart: Cartes du Ciel / Stellarium / Wikipedia

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