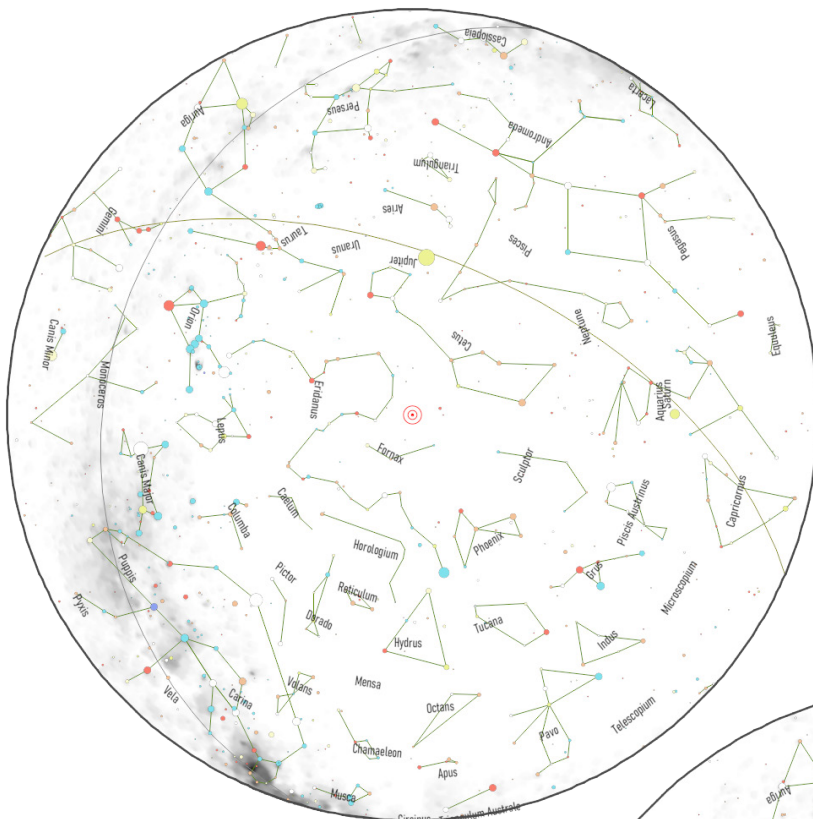
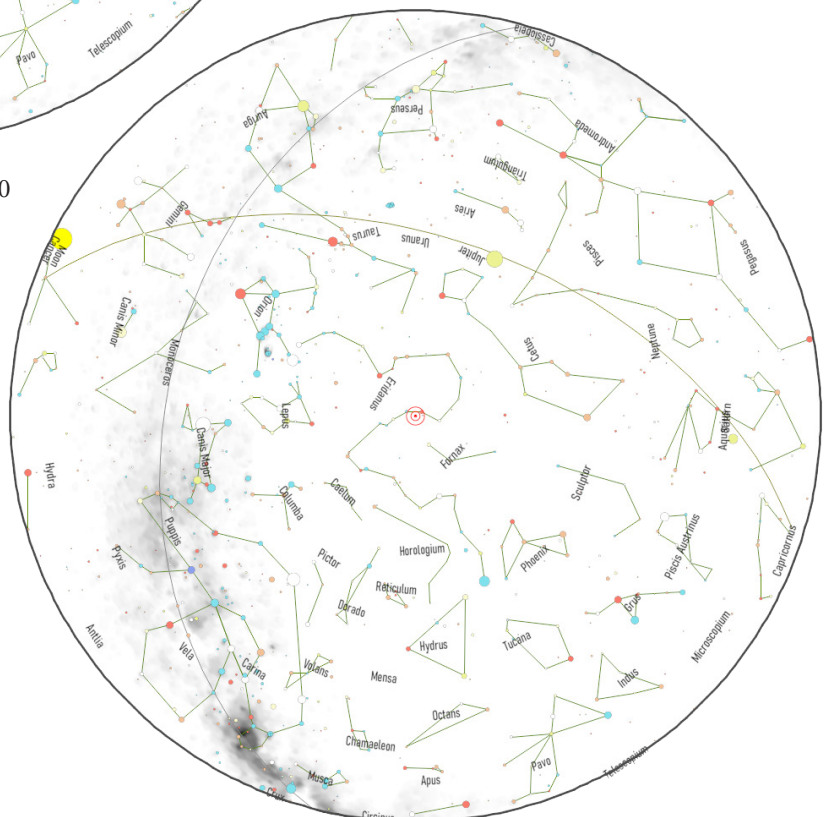


Astronews January 2024

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Skychart at Windhoek on 10 January 2024 at 20h00



Skychart at Windhoek on 25 January 2024 at 20h00

Moon Phases

04 Jan 2024	Last Quarter
11 Jan 2024	New Moon
18 Jan 2024	First Quarter
25 Jan 2024	Full Moon

Solar System

Planet	Visibility	Rise	Culm.	Set
Mercury		04:34	11:15	17:55
Venus		03:43	10:22	17:00
Mars		05:04	11:49	18:35
Jupiter		14:04	19:46	01:28
Saturn		09:36	15:58	22:20
Uranus		15:05	20:38	02:11
Neptune		11:08	17:16	23:24

Mercury is visible in the dawn sky, rising at 04:34 (CAT) – 1 hour and 39 minutes before the Sun – and reaching an altitude of 15° above the eastern horizon before fading from view as dawn breaks at around 05:51.

Venus is visible as a morning object, rising at 03:43 (CAT) – 2 hours and 30 minutes before the Sun – and reaching an altitude of 29° above the eastern horizon before fading from view as dawn breaks at around 05:58.

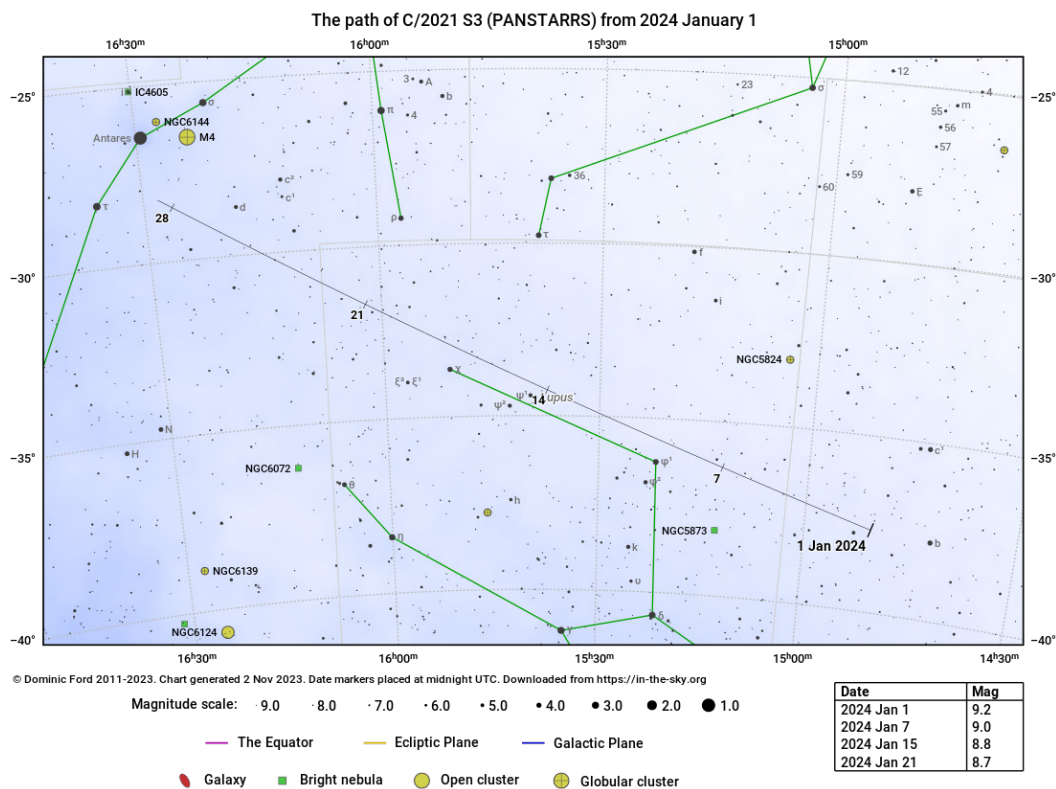
Deep Sky

The Pleiades are becoming accessible around 22:00, when reaching an altitude of 12° above your north-eastern horizon. It will then reach its highest point in the sky at 02:14, 43° above your northern horizon. It will be lost to dawn twilight around 05:32, 22° above your north-western horizon.

Comets

C/2021 S3 (PANSTARRS) could be visible in the dawn sky, rising at 01:41 (CAT) and reaching an altitude of 38° above the south-eastern horizon before fading as dawn breaks at around 05:07.

It is projected to reach a Magnitude of 8.5 towards the end of January and should be visible with binoculars.



Other Occurrences

The Earth at perihelion

Wed, 03 Jan 2024 at 02:38 CAT

The Earth's annual orbit around the solar system will carry it to its closest point to the Sun, at a distance of 0.9833 AU.

The Earth's distance from the Sun varies by around 3% over the course of the year because its orbit is slightly oval-shaped, following a path called an ellipse. In practice, this variation is rather slight, however, because the Earth's orbit is very nearly circular.