



### Evening sky in April 2017

The constellation of Leo (Lion) is prominent above the northern horizon, confirming that it is indeed autumn in the Southern Hemisphere. To the west, Orion sets earlier every evening, while Scorpius (Scorpion) has made its appearance in the east. To the south, the Southern Cross (Crux) and the False Cross are easily confused. However, two bright stars, the Pointers, slightly below and in line with the star at the top of the cross, will guide you to the Southern Cross.

The Moon is in the evening sky until 14 April and again after 27 April. Watch it change position against the background of stars as it moves in orbit around Earth during the course of the month. On 5 April it is near the Beehive Cluster in Cancer (Crab); on 7 April near the bright star Regulus in Leo; on 11 April near planet Jupiter in Virgo (Maiden); and on 16 April near planet Saturn in Sagittarius (Archer).

12 April is Yuri's Night, dedicated to celebrating achievements in space exploration. It is named for the first human to launch into space, [Yuri Gagarin](#), who flew the Russian [Vostok 1](#) spaceship on 12 April 1961.