



### Evening sky in July 2016

High above the southern horizon we find the closest star to our solar system, Alpha Centauri, also known as Rigil Kentaurus. Travelling at the speed of light, at approximately 300 000 km/s, it will take you 4.37 years to reach this star. Alpha Centauri is one of the two Pointers close to Crux, the Southern Cross. The other Pointer, Beta Centauri, also known as Hadar, is about 390 light years distance. The closest star to earth is the Sun, about 150 million km or just over 8 light minutes away. High above the eastern horizon is the constellation of Scorpius, the Scorpion. Follow the curving line of stars through the red giant star, Antares, the heart of the Scorpion, along the tail, ending with two stars close together, the sting. The reddish object between the claws of the Scorpion, in the constellation of Libra, the Scales, is the planet of Mars. To the left of Antares, in the constellation of Ophiuchus, the Serpent Bearer, is planet Saturn. To find planet Jupiter, look for it in the constellation of Leo, about to set in the west.

The Moon is in the early evening sky from 5 July until 22 July.