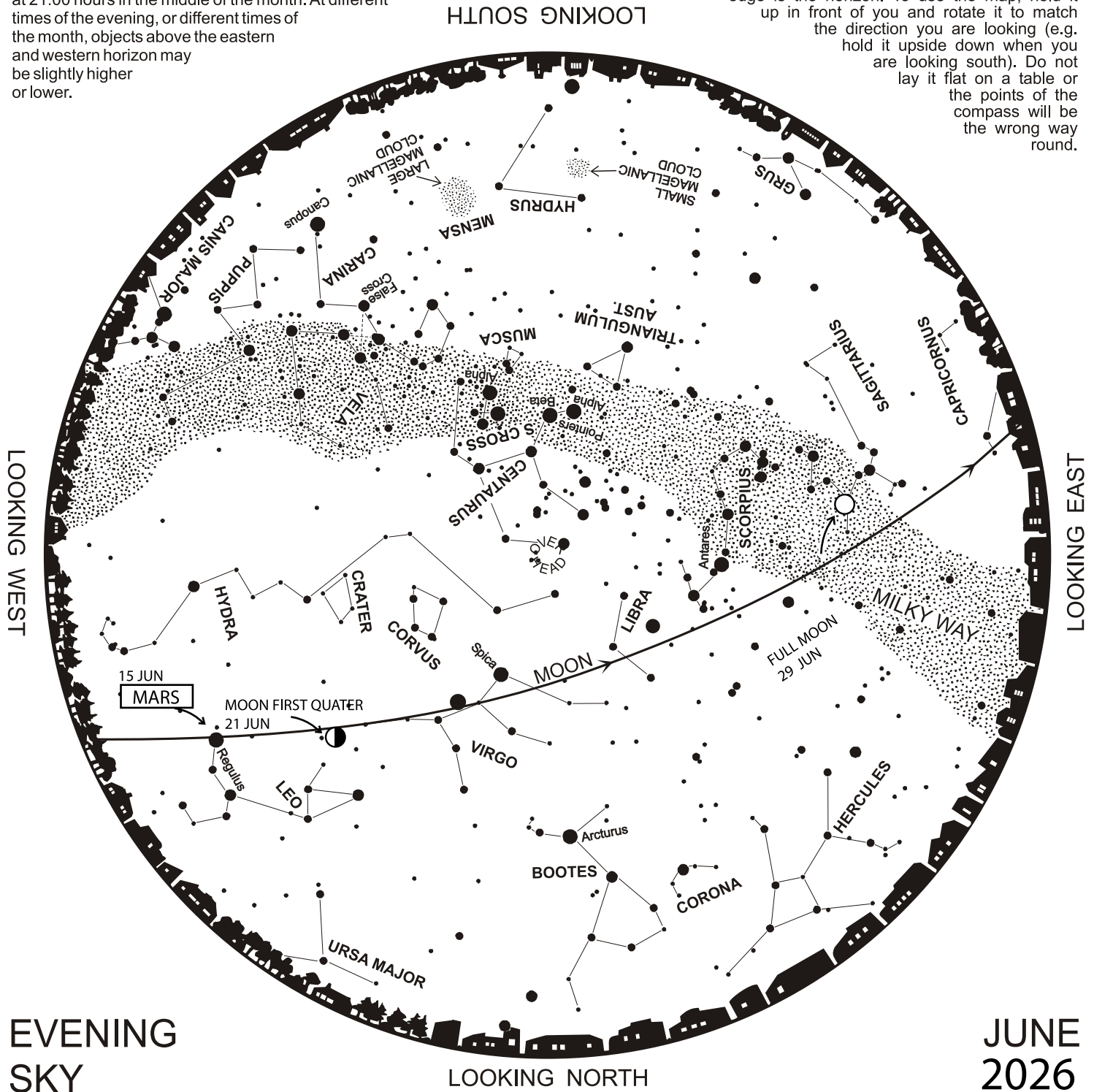


IZIKO PLANETARIUM AND DIGITAL DOME

The map shows the night sky visible above the Cape at 21:00 hours in the middle of the month. At different times of the evening, or different times of the month, objects above the eastern and western horizon may be slightly higher or lower.

The centre of the map is the overhead point, the edge is the horizon. To use the map, hold it up in front of you and rotate it to match the direction you are looking (e.g. hold it upside down when you are looking south). Do not lay it flat on a table or the points of the compass will be the wrong way round.



As winter settles in, the colder months bring clearer and darker skies. Each year, the Winter Solstice occurs around 21 June, marking the longest night of the year in the Southern Hemisphere.

During this month, the constellation Hercules, named after the hero of Greek mythology, can be seen low in the northern sky near Boötes and its bright orange star Arcturus. Arcturus is one of the bright stars visible from Earth and is approximately 25 times larger than the Sun, located about 37 light-years away. On the eastern horizon, the bright star Altair becomes more prominent, bringing the constellation Aquila into view. Altair forms part of the well-known "Summer Triangle" in the Northern Hemisphere, together with Vega and Deneb. The constellation Leo gradually descends toward the western horizon,

led by its brightest star Regulus. Following Leo is the constellation Hydra, the largest constellation in the night sky. Despite its size, Hydra contains only one particularly bright star, Alphard.

For a stargazing challenge, try spotting Messier 48 (M48) early in the month. This open star cluster can sometimes be seen with the naked eye under dark conditions near the head of Hydra, low above the western horizon.

The Full Moon occurs on 30 June, while the New Moon falls on 15 June. Around the New Moon, darker skies provide an excellent opportunity to observe the Milky Way stretching across the sky from east to west. In San traditions, the Milky Way was believed to be the pathway used by N!adima, a Creator deity, while carrying the Sun across the heavens.