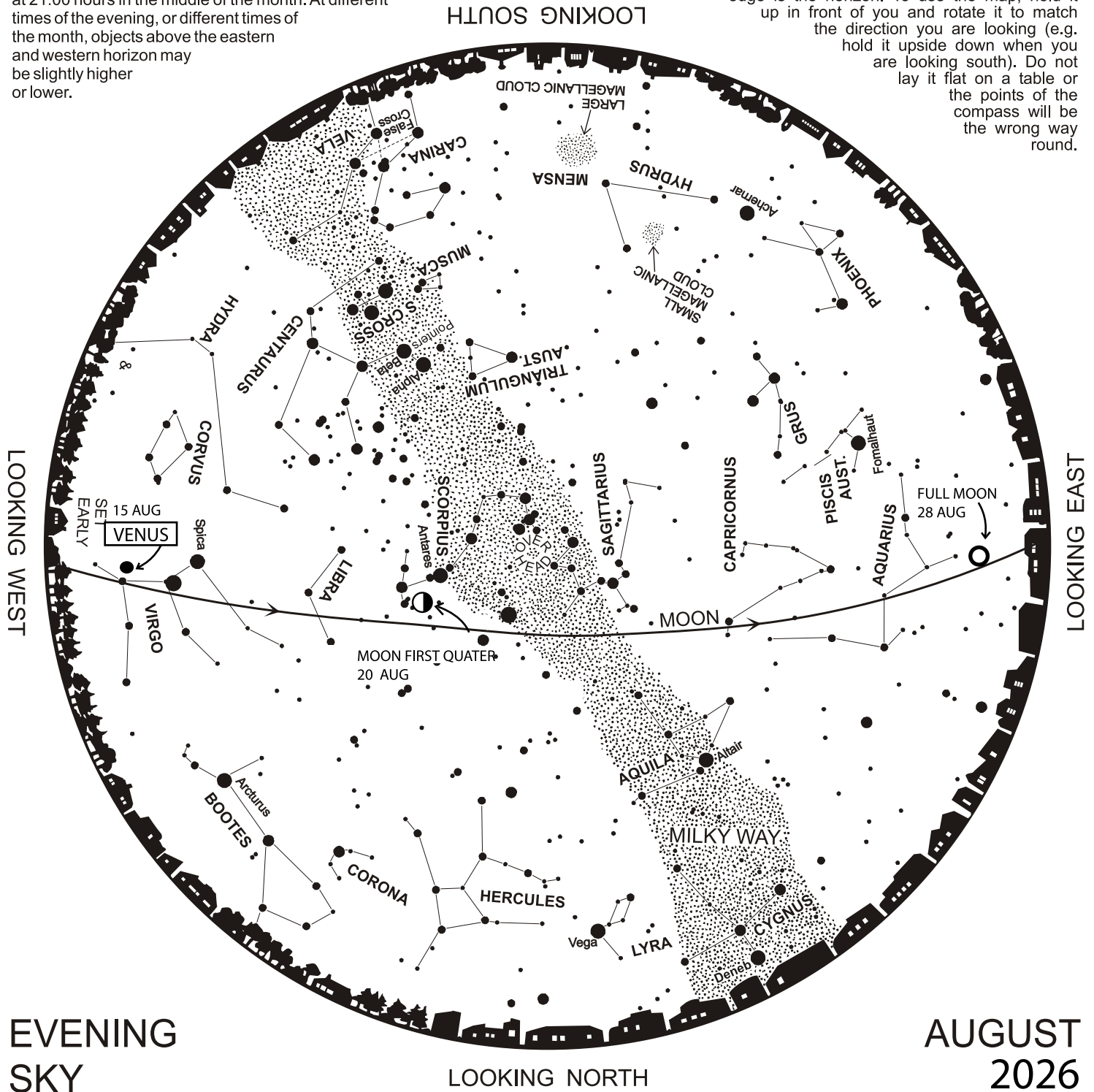


IZIKO PLANETARIUM AND DIGITAL DOME

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.



August marks the final month of winter as the evening sky begins its transition towards spring. As the month progresses, the constellations Bootes and Virgo descends toward the western horizon. As the month progresses Venus will also set later near Spica in the constellation of Virgo. In the southeast, Achernar, the brightest star in Eridanus and the ninth-brightest star in the night sky, rises higher each evening. Although it appears to be a single star, Achernar is part of a binary star system.

In the east, Aquarius becomes more prominent, while the "Summer Triangle" asterism, formed by the stars Vega, Altair, and Deneb, is now fully visible low in the northern sky. Observers with binoculars or a small telescope can also look for Caldwell 20 (NGC 7000), a faint globular cluster low above the northern horizon.

Throughout August, Comet 10P/Tempel may also be visible in Piscis Austrinus, although binoculars or a small telescope will be needed to observe this faint visitor.

The New Moon occurs on 17 August, providing ideal dark-sky conditions for exploring the Milky Way, which stretches across the sky from the northeast to the southwest. The Full Moon follows on 28 August. During the early morning hours of the same day, a partial lunar eclipse will be visible. A lunar eclipse occurs when the Earth passes between the Sun and the Moon, casting its shadow across the lunar surface. In Xhosa tradition, a lunar eclipse is known as ukudliwa kwenyanga, meaning "the eating of the Moon," and was regarded as a sign of important change.