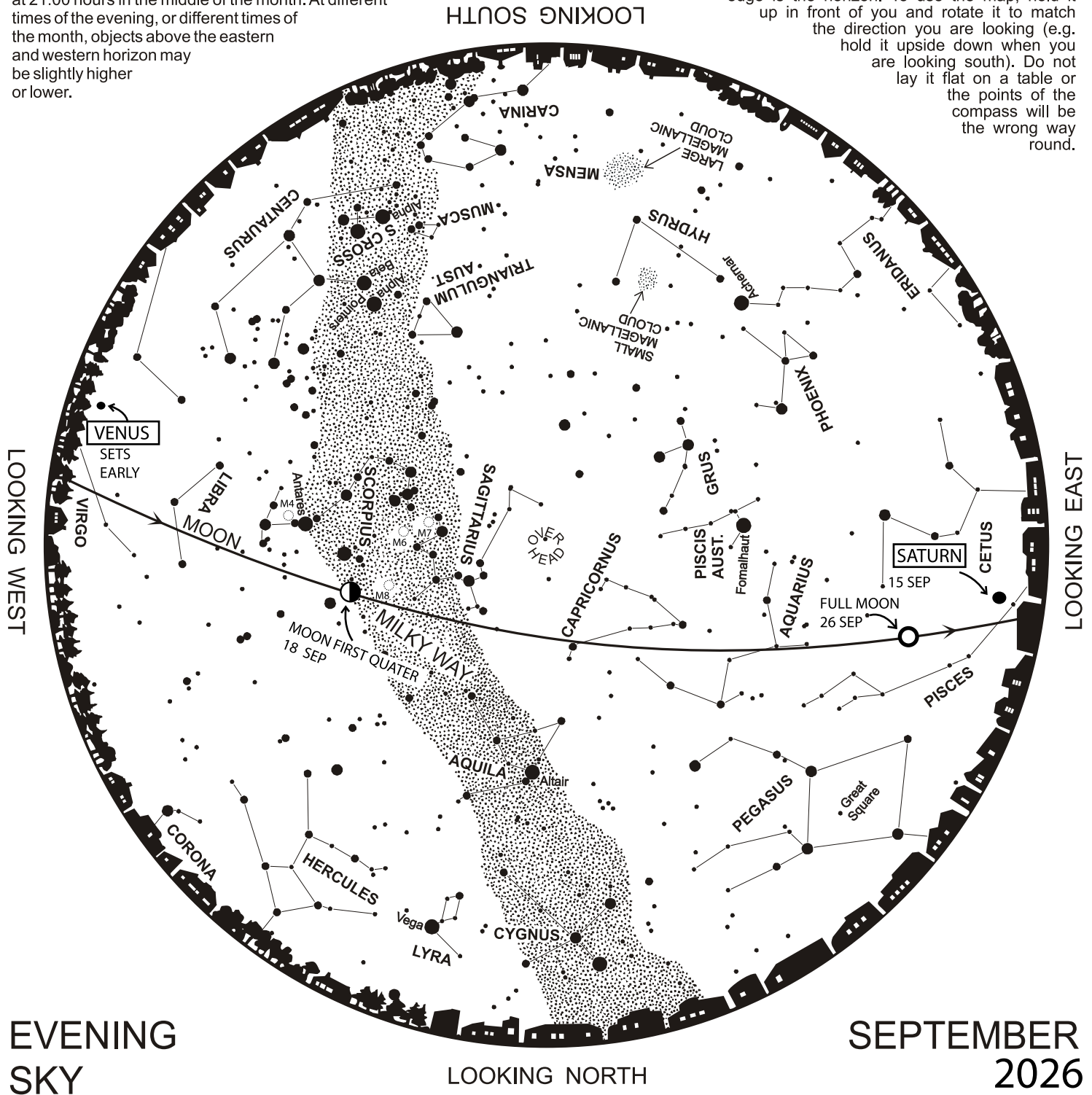


IZIKO PLANETARIUM AND DIGITAL DOME

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.



EVENING SKY

SEPTEMBER 2026

We welcome a new month and a new season. As spring begins, the night sky starts to change, bringing new constellations into view. On the northeastern horizon, Pegasus, the winged horse, begins to rise. The easiest way to find it is by looking for the distinctive asterism Great Square of Pegasus. One of the stars forming the Square is Alpheratz, which is also the brightest star in the constellation Andromeda (low on the Northern horizon). In the southern sky, Achernar, the brightest star in the constellation Eridanus and the ninth-brightest star in the night sky, becomes increasingly prominent. Under dark, clear skies, the faint constellations Pisces and Cetus can also be traced.

In the northern sky, Cygnus is visible through its distinctive asterism, the Northern Cross. Together with Vega in Lyra and Altair in Aquila, its bright star Deneb gradually shifts toward the northwest as the month progresses. Virgo and Boötes sink lower into the western sky, while Saturn remains a prominent evening planet, rising in the east and moving westward throughout the night. During this time the moon Titan should be easier to see with binoculars or a telescope as it will reach its maximum separation this month. The New Moon occurs on 11 September, providing dark skies for stargazing. The Full Moon follows on 26 September, brightening the spring sky.

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