



Evening sky in AUGUST 2013

The curve of stars lying almost directly overhead forms the tail of Scorpius (Scorpion), with a pair of stars representing its sting. Further east we find Sagittarius (Archer) aiming his bow and arrow at the Scorpion. The brighter stars in Sagittarius form an easily recognizable asterism in the shape of a teapot, complete with handle, lid and spout. Sagittarius contains many star clusters and nebulae and is well worth exploring, even with binoculars. The Milky Way is at its densest near Sagittarius, as the galactic centre lies in this direction. Follow the band of the Milky Way to the southwest to see the bright stars of the Southern Cross (Crux) and Pointers. Following it to the north-east will bring you to the bright star Altair in Aquila (Eagle).

Planet Venus is currently visible as the "evening star" in a west-northwesterly direction early in the evening. It moves from Leo (Lion) into Virgo (Maiden) by mid-month, and by month-end it lies just below Spica, the bright "hip" star of Virgo. Above Spica is the ringed planet, Saturn, also in Virgo.

The Moon is in the evening sky from 9 August until 22 August.