



### Evening sky in July 2011

The steady atmosphere caused by a cold winter evening, makes this time of year particularly favourable for stargazing.

On a moonless evening the Milky Way, the luminous band made up of the collective light of millions of distant stars, is clearly visible.

Almost directly overhead the bright star Antares marks the heart of Scorpius, the constellation resembling a scorpion. From Antares a line of stars runs down the body and then along the curved tail, ending with two small stars close together representing the sting.

Slightly more eastward are some bright stars in the constellation of Sagittarius, the Archer. Following the Milky Way southward from the Scorpion, the two bright Pointer stars, Alpha and Beta Centauri are clearly visible. They "point" towards the top of Crux, the Southern Cross. Find South by extending the long axis of the Cross four and a half times in the direction of the foot of the Cross. This will bring you to a point in the sky known as the South Celestial Pole, directly above Earth's South Pole.

Planet Saturn is in the constellation of Virgo.

The Moon is in the evening sky from 4 July until 17 July.