



Evening sky in June 2011

The constellation of Scorpius can be seen rising in the East, pursued by Sagittarius, the Archer. The bright star at the heart of the Scorpion is Antares, a red super-giant star, with a radius about 800 times that of our Sun. To the North is Arcturus, an orange giant star about 25 times the Sun's radius. It lies in Boötes, the Herdsman. More westerly is Regulus, about 4 times the Sun's radius. This young blue-white star is the bright heart of Leo, the Lion. The Southern Cross (Crux) is now upright in the South with the Pointers (Alpha and Beta Centauri) nearby.

Planet Saturn is in the constellation of Virgo. The four other planets visible to the naked eye, Mercury, Venus, Mars and Jupiter, form a relatively close group in the morning sky and can be seen looking East around 7 June.

The Moon is in the evening sky from 5 June until 18 June. A total lunar eclipse occurs on 15 June. Totality is at 22:13 when the Moon appears a dark orange/brown colour with the stars of Scorpius and Sagittarius on either side of the Moon.