



Evening sky in MAY 2014

This month the Southern Cross (Crux) is high in the southern sky. The Pointers, Alpha and Beta Centauri, “point” to the top of the Cross. Lower and to the west is Canopus in Carina, the Keel of the mythological ship, Argo. In isiXhosa Canopus is known as *uCanzibe*, the harbinger of winter. *uCanzibe* is also the name for the last month of the year in the Xhosa calendar and is traditionally the time that boys who will be initiated in June (*isiLimela* in Xhosa) mourn the passing of their boyhood years. Catch a last glimpse of Orion, (the Hunter) as it disappears below the western horizon over the course of the month. Leo (the Lion) is prominent in the northern sky. Its brightest star, Regulus, is a multiple star system consisting of four stars. The primary star rotates so fast that if it spun only slightly faster, it would tear itself apart. During the course of the month Planet Jupiter in Gemini (the Twins) sets in the west. Planets Mars in Virgo (the Maiden), and Saturn in Libra (the Scales) are visible throughout the month. Saturn is at its brightest for the year early in the month.

The Moon is in the evening sky from 3 May until 18 May