



Evening sky in NOVEMBER 2012

How far can you see? Towards the north find the four stars that form the "Great Square of Pegasus", then follow an imaginary line from the top left star to the bottom right and continue half that length. This leads you to a faint elongated patch of light, the Great Galaxy in Andromeda. It is approx. 2.3 million light years away and is the furthest object we can see with the naked eye. The four bright stars in an arch from northwest to southeast are Altair (in Aquila, the Eagle), Fomalhaut (in Piscis Austrinus, the Southern Fish), Achernar (in Eridanus, the River) and Canopus (in Carina, the Keel). The Southern Cross (Crux) and Pointers (Alpha and Beta Centauri) are low in the south.

Planet Mars is low in the west and moves into Sagittarius. Planet Jupiter is just above the eastern horizon in Taurus.

The Moon is in the evening sky from 15 November. The total solar eclipse taking place 13-14 November is not visible from South Africa. The last few minutes of the penumbral lunar eclipse on 28 November is visible from Johannesburg and Durban, but for viewers in Cape Town the eclipse is over by the time the Moon rises.