



### Evening sky in OCTOBER 2012

Five bright stars form an arch spanning the evening sky. Vega (in Lyra, the Lyre) is low in the northwest; Altair (in Aquila, the Eagle) is halfway up; Fomalhaut (in Piscis Austrinus, the Southern Fish) is almost at the top; halfway down to the south-eastern horizon is Achernar (in Eridanus, the River); and lower down is Canopus (in Carina, the Keel).

To the east are some constellations associated with water: Cetus (the Whale), Pisces (the Fish) and Eridanus (the River).

The Great Square in Pegasus is in the northwest while on the opposite side of the sky, low in the southwest, the Southern Cross (Crux) is lying on its side. The two bright Pointers (Alpha and Beta Centauri) are above the Cross.

To the west is Scorpius (the Scorpion) plunging headlong down to the horizon. Just above it is Sagittarius (the Archer), aiming at the Scorpion's tail with his bow and arrow.

This month planet Mars makes its way from Libra, through Scorpius and into Ophiucus, (the Serpent Bearer). It passes close to the red supergiant star, Antares (translated as "rival of Mars"), the "heart" of the Scorpion.

The Moon is in the evening sky on 1 October and again from 17 October.