



### Evening sky in SEPTEMBER 2015

The bright star Fomalhaut, sometimes called The Loneliest Star, appears high in the east in Piscis Austrinus (Southern Fish) at a distance of 25 light years from Earth. To the north Aquila (Eagle) is easily spotted by finding the bright star, Altair. In the west the red supergiant star Antares, gives away the position of Scorpius (Scorpion) while Sagittarius (Archer) follows overhead. The Southern Cross (Crux) and Pointers (Alpha and Beta Centauri) brighten up the south-western sky.

Planet Saturn is in Libra (Scales) to the west, almost between the claws of the Scorpion.

The Moon is in the evening sky from 15 September until 29 September.

The total lunar eclipse on 28 September is visible from Cape Town. The Moon enters the penumbra (the lighter, outside part of Earth's shadow) at 2:11:47; it enters the umbra (the dark inner part of Earth's shadow) at 3:07:11; and total eclipse starts at 4:47:08. The Moon is low in the west in the early morning sky when totality starts.

A partial eclipse of the Sun occurs at sunrise on the morning of 13 September. It is already underway at sunrise (Cape Town at 6:49) with time of maximum at 7:44 when 39% of the Sun is eclipsed by the Moon. It ends at 8:51.

Spring equinox is on 23 September.