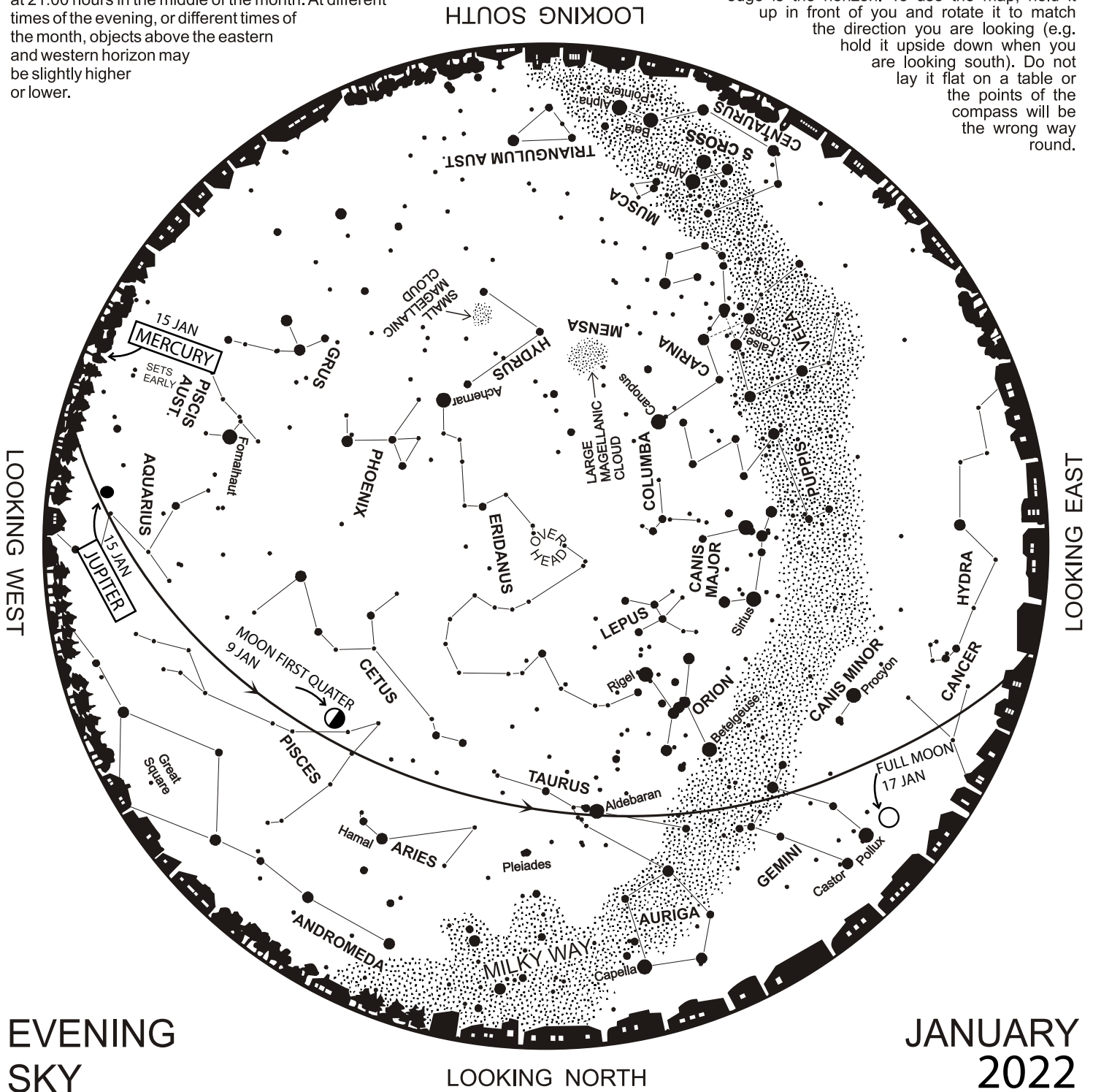


IZIKO PLANETARIUM AND DIGITAL DOME

The map shows the night sky visible above the Cape at 21:00 hours in the middle of the month. At different times of the evening, or different times of the month, objects above the eastern and western horizon may be slightly higher or lower.

The centre of the map is the overhead point, the edge is the horizon. To use the map, hold it up in front of you and rotate it to match the direction you are looking (e.g. hold it upside down when you are looking south). Do not lay it flat on a table or the points of the compass will be the wrong way round.



EVENING SKY

JANUARY 2022

The Gemini stars Castor and Pollux welcome us to the new year as they reappear in the early evening towards the north-east. From Auriga (Charioteer) in the north to the Southern Cross low in the south, the Milky Way unfurls itself across our eastern skies. Try identify all the stars of Eridanus (river) as it lies directly overhead, starting close to blue supergiant Rigel in Orion (hunter) and ending with bright star Achernar.

Two bright open star clusters, the Pleiades and Hyades, lie towards the north. The latter v-shaped stellar cluster, with bright star Aldebaran forms part of Taurus (bull). Further east, look out for the three distinctive 'belt' stars and red supergiant star Betelgeuse in Orion.

In African star lore, Aldebaran's hungry wives (Pleiades) sent him to hunt down three zebras (Orion's belt). Using his bow and single arrow, he foolishly missed but was unable to retrieve it due to a nearby fearsome lion (Betelgeuse). Aldebaran now sits in Taurus, caught between the lion and his angry wives back home.

The moon will be in the evening sky from 3 until 24 January, with Full Moon ('Mantis Moon', see cfah.org.za/fullmoon/ for more details) on 17 January. Just after sunset in the west, the moon will appear close to Saturn on 4 January, and then close to Jupiter on 5/6 January. It also appears close to Mars and Venus just before sunrise on 29/30 January.