Starmap 2019

February

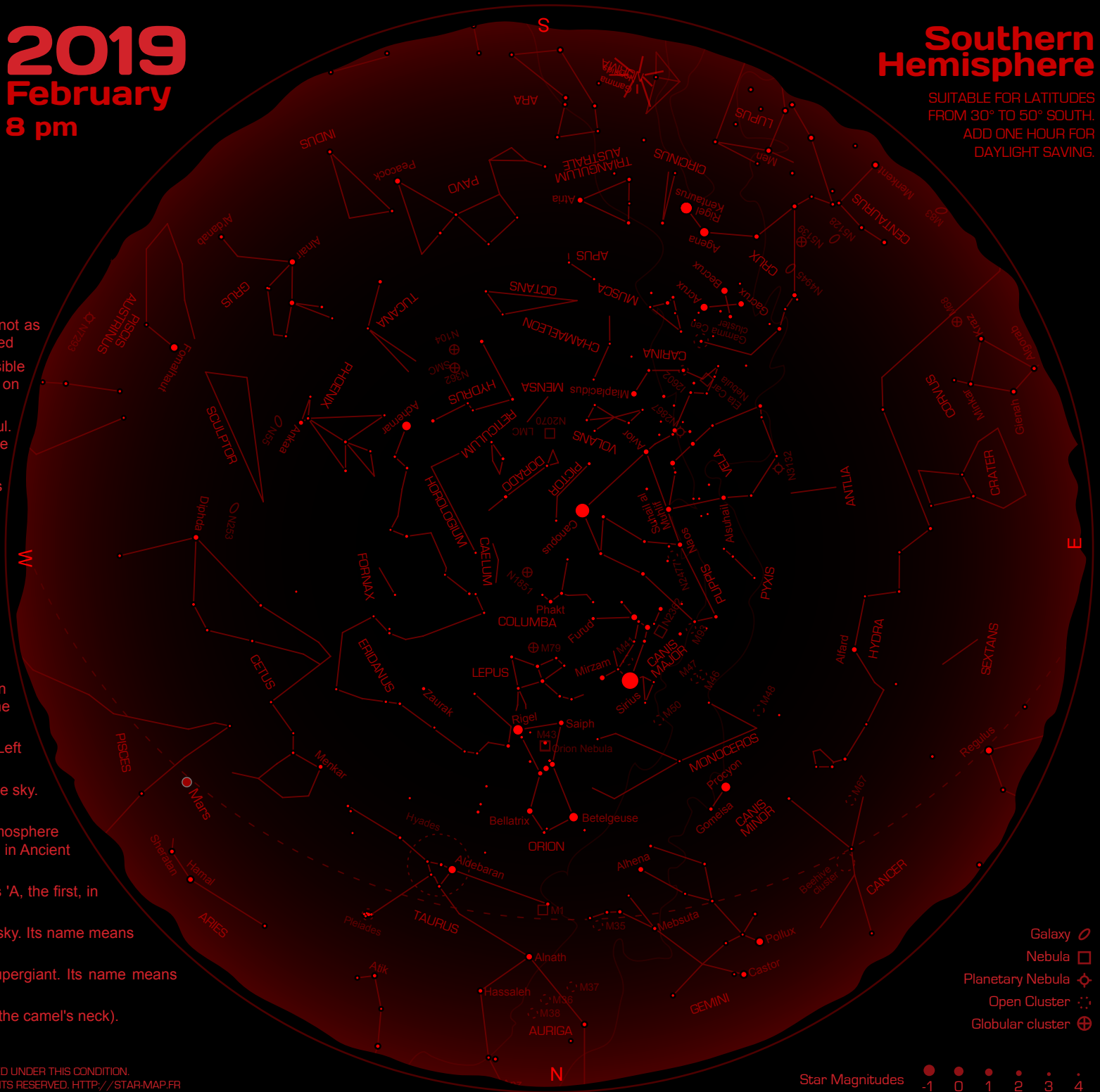
8 pm

Southern Hemisphere

SUITABLE FOR LATITUDES FROM 30° TO 50° SOUTH.
ADD ONE HOUR FOR DAYLIGHT SAVING.

VISIBLE TONIGHT TO THE NAKED EYE

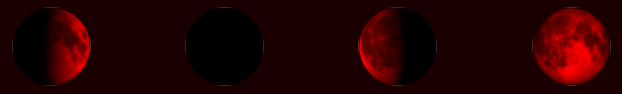
- Mars, the Red Planet, is the fourth planet of the Solar System, not as bright as other planets but a distinct reddish glow can be observed
- The Gamma Normids, a medium meteor shower in Norma. Visible from the 25th of February to the 22nd of March, with a maximum on the 13th of March.
- The Orion Nebula is one of the must-see object. Simply beautiful. Generally the first deep sky object observed by beginners. Can be seen with the naked eye even in bad conditions.
- Eta Carina Nebula should not be missed. A must for beginners and for astrophotographers. Near the Southern Cross.
- The Lambda Cen Nebula (or Running Chicken Nebula) is an open cluster with an emission nebula in Centaurus. Really worth a look.
- The Hyades , the closest open cluster in Taurus. With very dark skies, the cluster is amazingly crowed. Not really visible with light pollution.
- Aldebaran. A red giant in Taurus. Its name means 'The Follower'. Close to the Hyades.
- Rigel Kentaurus. Also named Alpha Centauri. The brightest star in the southern hemisphere. Its companion Proxima Centauri is the closest star to the Sun.
- Bellatrix. Bellatrix means 'Female Warrior'. It is located at the 'Left Shoulder' of Orion.
- Achernar. Brightest star in Eridanus. The ninth brightest star in the sky. Appears bluish.
- Sirius. The brightest star in the sky. So bright that the Earth atmosphere lets it twinkle in a spectacular manner. Its name means 'glowing' in Ancient Greek.
- Acrux. The brightest star in the Southern Cross. Its name means 'A, the first, in the cross'.
- Rigel. The brightest star of Orion. The sixth brightest star in the sky. Its name means 'The Foot of the Giant'.
- Betelgeuse. The eighth brightest star in the night sky. A red supergiant. Its name means 'Armpit of the central one'.
- Alhena. The third brightest star of Gemini. Mean 'The Brand' (on the camel's neck).



WITH BINOCULARS AND SMALL TELESCOPES

NGC104	⊕	47 Tucanae, an intense globular cluster containing millions of stars. Easy to locate. A nice object for beginners in astrophotography.
NGC2070	□	The Tarantula Nebula, such a beautiful object in the Large Magellanic Cloud. Worth a trip to the southern hemisphere with your camera.
M1	☼	A supernova remnant, observed in 1054 by Chinese, Arab and Japanese astronomers. A hazy patch of nebulosity near the star ζ-Tauri.
M43	□	The companion of the Orion Nebula. Best observed with small telescopes. Appears as a nebulosity surrounding 5 stars.
M47	⁘	Beautiful open cluster in Puppis. Very bright and rich field. A medium-sized fuzzy patch. Near Sirius.
IC2602	⁘	The Theta Carinae Cluster or Southern Pleiades is fainter than the Pleiades. Best views with binoculars, from Miaplacidus.
NGC3132	☼	The Eight-Burst Nebula looks like the ring nebula. Difficult to locate in Vela. PathFinder function from Suhail.
NGC253	⬭	Sculptor Galaxy, an intermediate spiral galaxy, almost edge-on. Not far from the south pole.
NGC362	⊕	A nice little but bright globular cluster in the Toucan. Easily visible with small telescopes. Start from Achernar or ß-Hyi.
NGC55	⬭	A barred irregular galaxy, edge on. Bluish with a fuzzy core. Close to the south pole. PathFinder from Ankaa.
NGC2362	⁘	A faint cluster marked by the bright star τ-Canis Majoris. A massive open cluster close to the nebula sh2-310.
NGC2867	⁘	An open cluster in Norma. Easy to locate beside Aspidiske in Carina.
NGC2477	⁘	An open cluster in Puppis. Contains about 300 stars. Small and bright object. Needs high magnification.
M41	⁘	An open cluster just below Sirius. A beautiful cluster composed of bright stars. It appears as a small area overflowing with faint stars
M46	⁘	A nice open cluster. Well observed with binoculars or a wide-angle telescope field. Compare its contrast with M47.

MOON CALENDAR



Monday 28 · Tuesday 5 · Tuesday 12 · Wednesday 20

HOW TO USE THE MAP

The map shows what you see looking at the zenith. The apparent inversion of East and West compared to road maps is normal. Hold the map face down above your head, and the cardinal points will be oriented as usual.

As a starting point, face North, holding the map in your eyesight direction, with its North down. As you change the direction, rotate the map accordingly.

The objects listed on the first page can be observed with naked eyes, in clear skies, with moderate light pollution. Close your eyes one minute and let them adapt to darkness. You will be surprised how many more details will be apparent.

Using binoculars, preferably with a tripod, will considerably enhance your star gazing experience. Many deep sky objects like galaxies and clusters will be within reach. Jupiter satellites and Saturn's rings will also be visible. A spectacular experience for beginners in astronomy...

Avoid the nights when the Moon is too bright as its light would make the observation of faint objects difficult.

FOR LARGER TELESCOPES [1]

NGC2244	⁘	The open cluster located in the Rosette Nebula.
NGC2237	□	The Rosette Nebula is a very good candidate for large field astrophotography. Bluish center surrounded by red clouds.
NGC2261	⬭	The Hubble's Variable Nebula is a reflection nebula illuminated by R Monocerotis. A small comet-shaped fuzzy patch.
M77	⬭	A nice spiral galaxy with a faint core. It appears as a large spiral with broad arms. Best revealed though long exposures.
M78	☼	A faint and small planetary nebula in Orion. A small object best observed with astrophotography. Appears as a nebulosity surrounding 2 stars in the eye piece.
NGC3242	☼	The Ghost of Jupiter, a planetary nebula in Hydra. A large outer halo with a oval shaped ring inside the halo. A must.
NGC300	⬭	A spiral galaxy in Sculptor. Yellow/white core with fuzzy blue arms.
NGC1097	⬭	A barred spiral galaxy in Fornax. Elongated white core with two bluish long arms.
NGC3115	⬭	The Spindle Galaxy is an elongated elliptical and an edge-on spiral galaxy in the Sextans.
SAO173446	●	The double star 30τ-CMa, both components of blue color.

[1] In order to keep the map readability, these objects are not displayed on the map