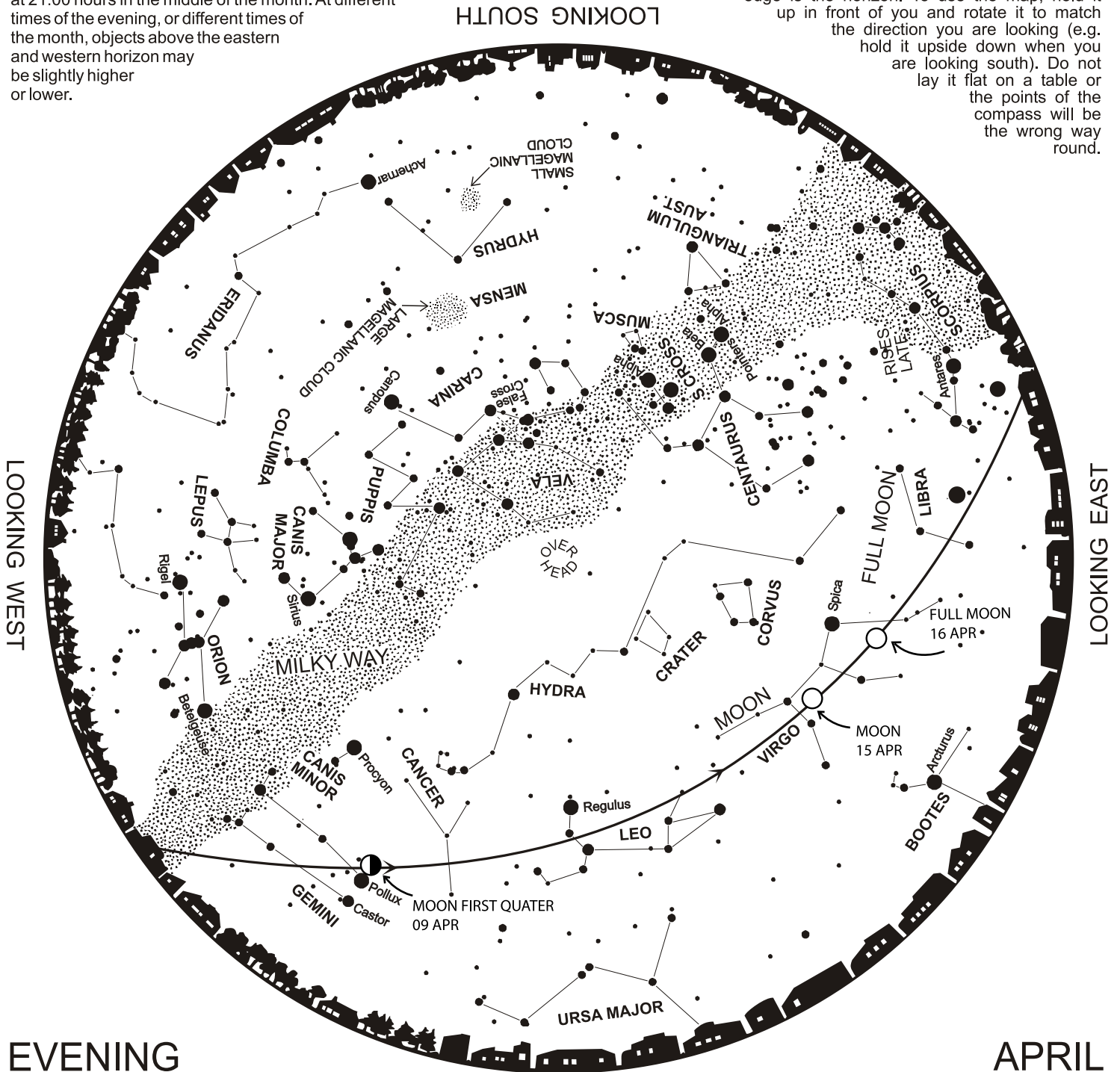


IZIKO PLANETARIUM AND DIGITAL DOME

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

APRIL 2022

As we head towards cooler and longer nights in South Africa, Orion (hunter) sets earlier in our evening skies, a few hours after sunset. From Orion, follow the path of the Milky Way Galaxy, past the brightest star in our night sky, Sirius (in Canis Major, big dog) towards Vela (sail) directly overhead. Between Vela and Carina (keel) lies the False Cross, not to be confused with the Southern Cross further south-east. The Southern Cross also includes the Pointer stars, Alpha and Beta Centauri. The former is a triple star system, which includes Proxima Centauri: currently the closest star to us, after the Sun. Low in the southeast, the Winter constellation Scorpius (Scorpion) returns to

our early evening skies. In the south, look out for our neighbouring galaxies, the Small (SMC) and Large Magellanic Clouds (LMC). Using binoculars on the southern edge of the SMC will reveal the spectacular globular cluster 47 Tucanae, which contains about half a million stars tightly bound together by gravity. In early April a few hours before sunrise, Mars, Saturn and Venus appear very close together. Towards month-end, they are joined by Jupiter and on 23/24 April, the Moon appears to line up with these four planets. The Moon will be in the evening sky from 4 to 23 April, with Full Moon ('Diamond Moon') on 16 April.