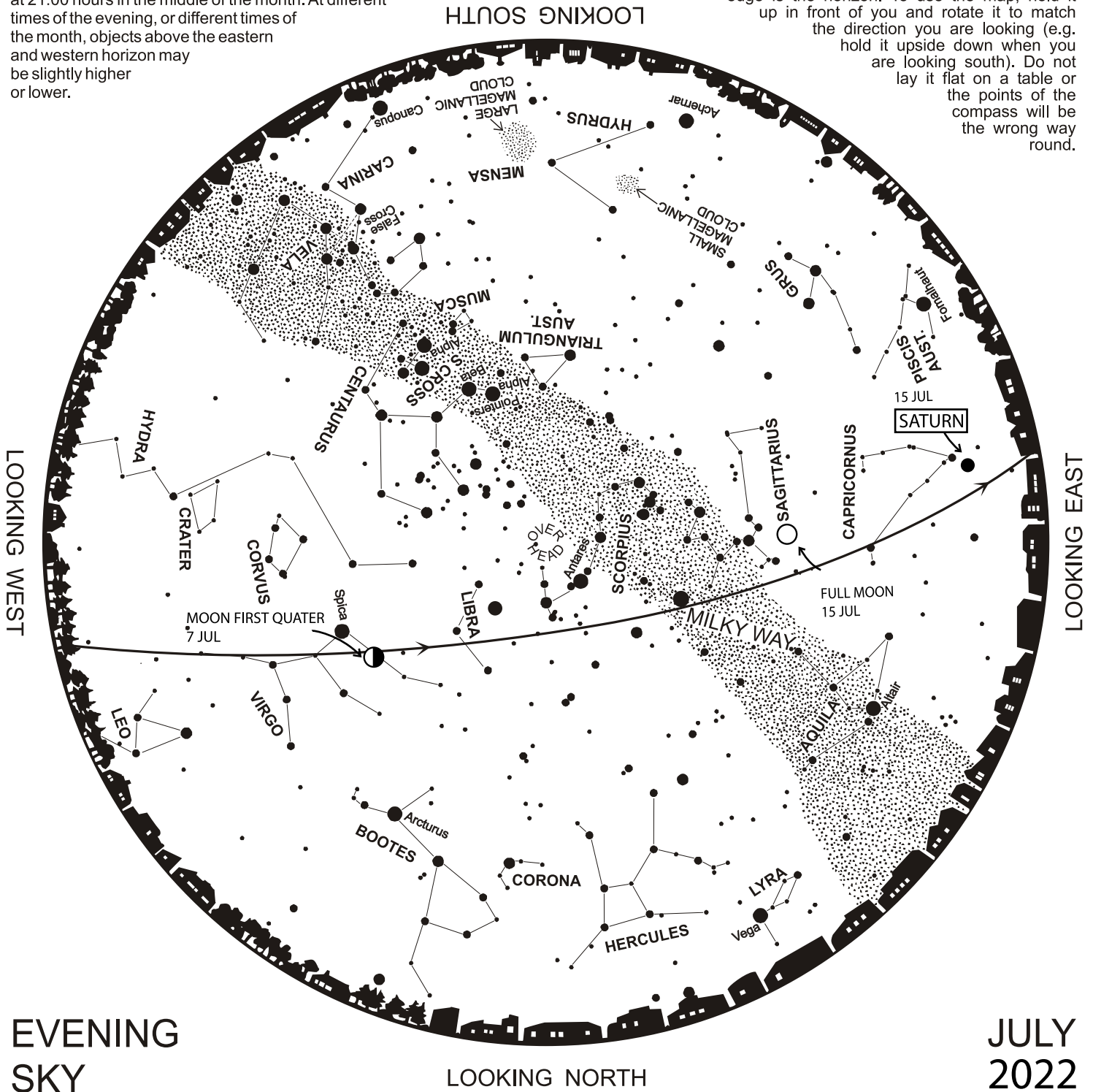


# IZIKO PLANETARIUM AND DIGITAL DOME

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.



Take advantage of the longer nights to do some chilly stargazing, as prominent Winter constellations Scorpion (scorpion) and Sagittarius (archer) take centre stage overhead. This region reveals a treasure trove of fascinating celestial objects to explore with your binoculars (see the 2022 Sky Guide South Africa, available from local bookshops, for reference).

In this region, you can find the impressive open star cluster Messier 6 (Butterfly Cluster) and the globular star cluster Messier 4 (a close group of older gravitationally-bound stars). M4 is located close to the bright red star Antares in Scorpion. Closer towards Sagittarius lies Messier 8 (Lagoon Nebula), huddled

among several open clusters. M8 is a beautiful emission nebula, bright enough to observe with your naked eye in dark conditions.

In the first week of July, see if you can identify all five naked-eye planets in the early morning just before sunrise. Saturn rises first before midnight (within Capricornus, the Sea-goat), followed a few hours later by Jupiter (in Pisces, fishes), then Mars, Venus, and lastly Mercury just before sunrise. Later in the month, Mercury will be too close to the Sun to be seen. The Moon will appear in the evening sky until 17 July, with Full Moon on the 13 July ('Meerkat Moon', see <https://cfah.org.za/fullmoon/> to find out more).