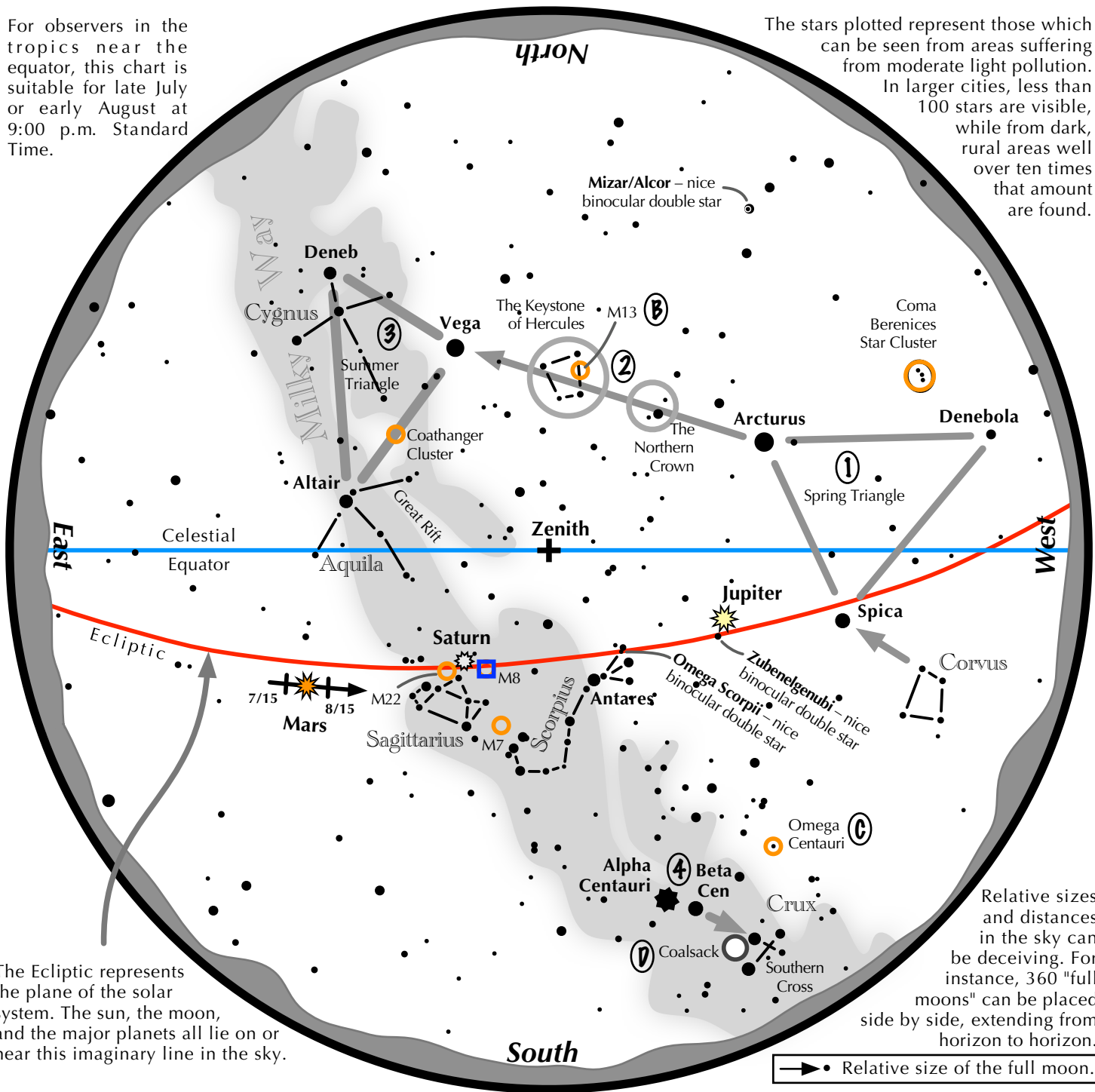


Navigating the late July and early August Night Sky

For observers in the tropics near the equator, this chart is suitable for late July or early August at 9:00 p.m. Standard Time.

The stars plotted represent those which can be seen from areas suffering from moderate light pollution. In larger cities, less than 100 stars are visible, while from dark, rural areas well over ten times that amount are found.



The Ecliptic represents the plane of the solar system. The sun, the moon, and the major planets all lie on or near this imaginary line in the sky.

Relative sizes and distances in the sky can be deceiving. For instance, 360 "full moons" can be placed side by side, extending from horizon to horizon.

→ • Relative size of the full moon.

Navigating the night sky: Simply start with what you know or with what you can easily find.

- 1 Arcturus, Spica, and Denebola form the Spring Triangle, a large equilateral triangle.
- 2 To the northeast of Arcturus shines another star of the same brightness, Vega. Draw a line from Arcturus to Vega. It first meets "The Northern Crown," then the "Keystone of Hercules." A dark sky is needed to see these two dim stellar configurations.
- 3 High in the east-northeast are the three bright stars of the Summer Triangle: Vega, Altair, and Deneb.
- 4 The brightest star in the June sky, Alpha Centauri, shines low in the south. To its west is Beta Centauri and together they point towards the Southern Cross.

Binocular Highlights

A: Sweep along the Milky Way from Altair to Antares to the False Cross to see many star clusters and nebulous areas – and an astounding number of faint glows and dark bays. **B:** On the western side of the Keystone glows the Great Hercules Cluster, M13. **C:** Just north of the Southern Cross lies Omega Centauri, a cluster of over 1 million stars and easily visible to the unaided eye. **D:** Next to the Southern Cross is the Coalsack, a dark nebula showing few stars.

