

SEPTEMBER HEPETEMA HIGHLIGHTS

Ophiuchus and Serpens

Ophiuchus means "serpent-bearer" in Greek and is typically depicted as a man holding a snake, represented by the constellation Serpens. Ophiuchus is most frequently associated with Apollo's son Asclepius who, after watching a snake revive another snake with healing herbs, was able to bring people back from the dead. Fearful of his powers, Zeus killed Asclepius but threw him into the sky to honour his gift.

While Ophiuchus is a very large constellation, it contains no bright stars and is often overlooked. To find Ophiuchus, first locate Scorpius and then scan north-west to find Serpens and Ophiuchus.



Centaurus and Lupus

To the ancient Greeks, the constellation Centaurus was associated with Chiron, the leader of the centaurs. These mythical creatures were half-man and half-horse, and nearly all were aggressive and warlike. In contrast, immortal Chiron was considered wise and kind. He was released from his immortality and placed in the heavens by Zeus, after being accidentally shot by a poisoned arrow.

To find Centaurus, first find Alpha (labelled Rigil Kentaurus on the star chart) and Beta Centauri. These two bright stars mark the centaur's front legs. Lupus, which means "the wolf" in Latin, can be seen just north of these stars.

What's On in September?

24 September - September Equinox Stargazing

September shows at Perpetual Guardian Planetarium, book at Museum Shop or online. See website for show times and details: otagomuseum.nz

Capturing the Cosmos Planetarium show.

The Sky Tonight Planetarium show.

We Are Stars Planetarium show.

THE SKY TONIGHT



SEPTEMBER HEPETEMA SKY GUIDE

PERPETUAL
GUARDIAN
PLANETARIUM

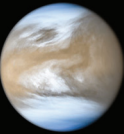

OTAGOMUSEUM

MOON MARAMA PHASES

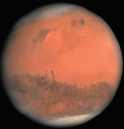
Phase	Date
3rd quarter	Monday 3 September
New moon	Monday 10 September
1st quarter	Monday 17 September
Full moon	Tuesday 25 September

PLANETS WHETŪ AO

Venus
Meremere-tū-ahiahi
Early September before 9.49pm
Mid September before 9.51pm
Late September before 10.30pm
In Virgo



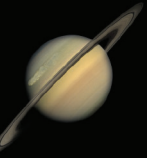
Mars
Matawhero
Early September before 5.31am
Mid September before 4.48am
Late September before 4.49am
In Capricornus



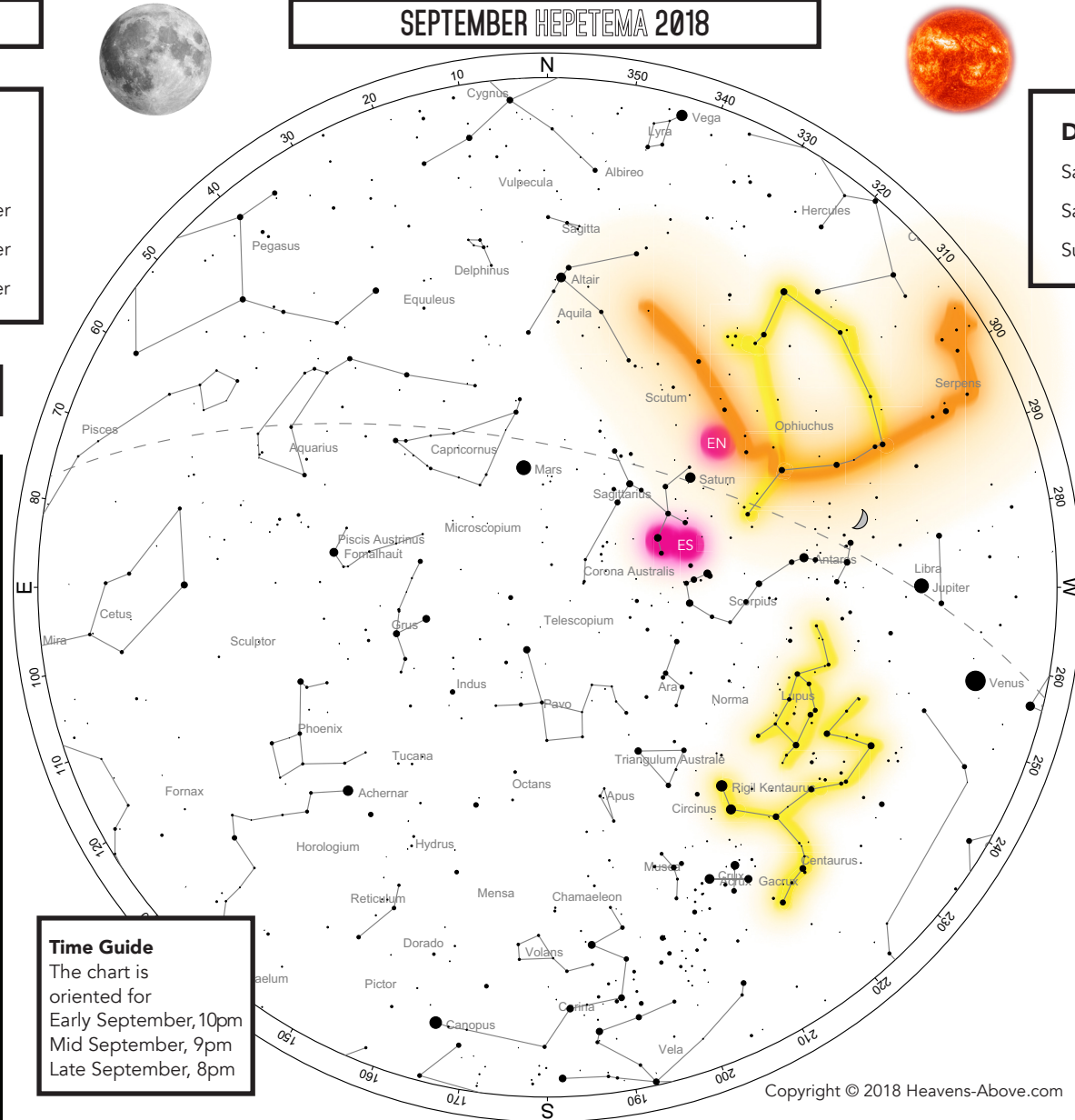
Jupiter
Hine-i-tīweka
Early September before 11.40pm
Mid September before 10.56pm
Late September before 11.11pm
In Libra



Saturn
Pareārau
Early September before 3.18am
Mid September before 2.24am
Late September before 2.26am
In Sagittarius



SEPTEMBER HEPETEMA 2018



Time Guide
The chart is oriented for
Early September, 10pm
Mid September, 9pm
Late September, 8pm

How to use this chart: Hold the chart up to the sky and rotate it, so the direction you are looking matches the direction printed on the bottom. For example, if you are looking south, place "S" at the lower edge. Stars rise in the east and set in the west like the sun. As the Earth turns, the sky appears to rotate clockwise around the south celestial pole. The sky makes a small shift to the west every night, as the Earth rotates around the sun.

SUN RĀ RISE / SUNSET

Date	Rise	Set
Saturday 1	7.08 AM	6.08 PM
Saturday 15	6.41 AM	6.25 PM
Sunday 30	7.12 AM	7.44 PM

EAGLE NEBULA

This 5.5-million-year-old nebula in the Serpens constellation is thought to have multiple star-forming regions, where stars like our sun are born. Of particular note is the iconic Pillars of Creation (which can be viewed on the cover) it was made famous by the Hubble Space Telescope in 1995. Although evidence suggests that the pillars may have been destroyed by a supernova 6000 years ago, we likely won't witness their demise for another 1000 years because of the time it takes for light to travel from them to Earth.

The brightest stars and surrounding gas of the Eagle Nebula can be viewed with just a pair of binoculars or a telescope, however the pillars will only be visible in optimum conditions or with more powerful equipment. Find Epsilon Sagittarii, the brightest star in Sagittarius, and draw a line to the north. Follow this line down until you find the Eagle Nebula just south of the tail of Serpens.

- ES Epsilon Sagittarii
- EN Eagle Nebula