


MARCH MĀEHE SKY GUIDE

Leo

In Greek mythology, the constellation of Leo represents the vicious lion said to have terrorised the district of Nemea. Many tried to defeat the lion but the animal's pelt proved impenetrable. Eventually the hero Hercules cornered the lion in a cave and strangled it to death. Afterwards he skinned the beast and made a cape of its hide, which became one of his most distinctive features. The goddess Hera then placed the lion in the sky, to honour its status as king of the beasts.

Of the 12 zodiac constellations, Leo is considered one of the easiest to find. Look north-east to find a backwards question mark shape of stars, known as the Sickle. At the bottom of the Sickle you'll see a bright star named Regulus, which means "little king". The Sickle is the lion's head – scan towards the eastern horizon to find the rest of the lion's body.



Leo from Uranographia by Johannes Hevelius. 

Māori Stars

Takurua is the brightest star in the sky and can be seen in the north from late November to early July. Takurua shares her name with winter – when she is bright in the sky it is a sign that frost is on the way. The winter season is sometimes personified as Hine-takurua, or winter woman. Maruaroa o Takurua, the winter solstice, occurs between 20 to 22 June and is said to be when the sun begins his journey from Hine-takurua (his winter bride) to Hine-raumati (his summer bride).

Takurua will be nearly overhead for most of March, making it easy to find. Simply look up while facing north and pinpoint the brightest star in the sky.

The brightest star in the southern sky is Autahi, also known as Te Arika o Te Tau, the Lord of the Year. Autahi has been given this title because he is circumpolar, meaning he never sets below the horizon and is visible in the sky year round. Because Autahi is so easily seen, he was one of the guiding stars used by Polynesians on their way to New Zealand. Autahi was also known to predict wind patterns by twinkling in the direction the winds were blowing.

Autahi is directly above us in March and is the second brightest star in the sky. If you've already found Takurua simply scan south until you find another star of similar brightness – this is Autahi.

Remember a moment in time with a personalised star chart from Otago Museum!

Each chart shows the position of stars, constellations, planets, the phase of the moon and the sun for the exact time, date and location of your special event.

For just \$39.90, your customised star chart is prepared within the hour.

Place your order at the Museum Shop.

THE SKY TONIGHT



MARCH MĀEHE SKY GUIDE

PERPETUAL
GUARDIAN
PLANETARIUM


OTAGOmuseum

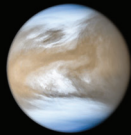
MOON MARAMA PHASES



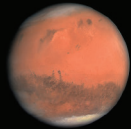
Phase	Date
New moon	Thursday 7 March
1st quarter	Saturday 16 March
Full moon	Saturday 23 March
3rd quarter	Friday 29 March

PLANETS WHETŪ AO

Venus
Meremere-tū-ahiahi
1 March after 3.34am
15 March after 4.02am
31 March after 4.36am
In Capricornus



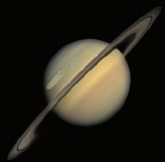
Mars
Matawhero
1 March before 10.22pm
15 March before 9.52am
31 March before 9.22pm
In Aries



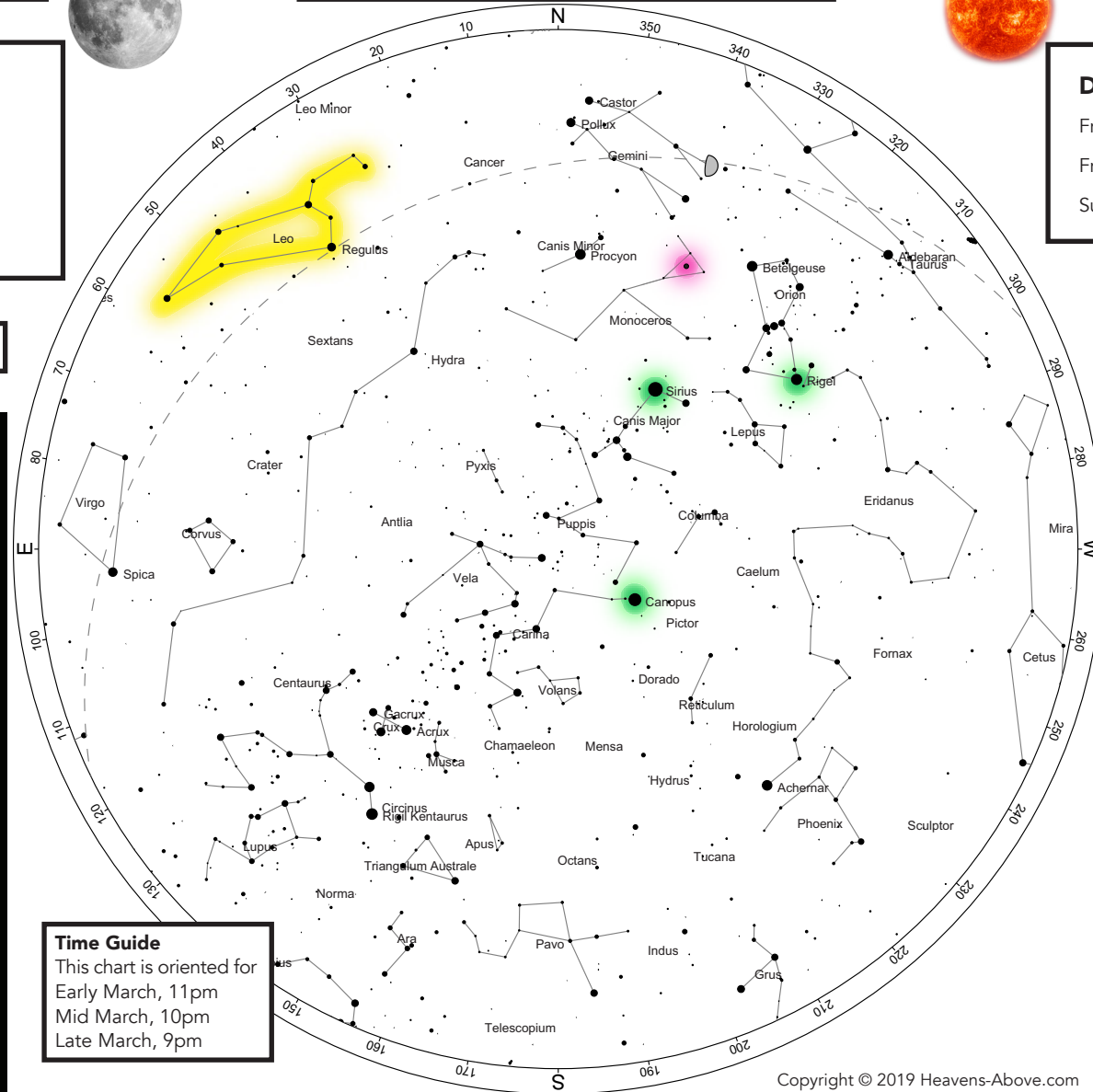
Jupiter
Hine-i-tiweka
1 March after 12.44am
15 March after 11.54pm
31 March after 10.55pm
In Ophiuchus



Saturn
Pareārau
1 March after 2.39am
15 March after 1.49am
31 March after 12.51am
In Sagittarius



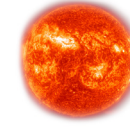
MARCH MĀEHE 2019



Time Guide
This chart is oriented for
Early March, 11pm
Mid March, 10pm
Late March, 9pm

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
Friday 1	7.12am	8.27pm
Friday 15	7.32am	8.01pm
Sunday 31	7.53am	7.30pm

MARCH EQUINOX

This year the March equinox will take place at 10.58am on Thursday 21 March. On the equinox, the sun shines directly on the equator and the length of day and night is close to equal. The March equinox is the moment that the sun crosses over the celestial equator – the imaginary line in the sky above the Earth's equator.

ROSETTE NEBULA

Pictured on the front cover, the Rosette Nebula is located near the end of a large molecular cloud in the Monoceros constellation of the Milky Way. An open cluster of stars known as NGC 2244 is located within the nebula, and can be seen through binoculars or small telescopes. This cluster and nebula are located around 5000 light years from Earth, with the nebula measuring 130 light years across.

- Rosette Nebula
- Leo
- Māori Stars