JANUARY HĀNUERE SKY GUIDE

The Argo Navis

Made up of the constellations Carina, Puppis and Vela, the Argo Navis represents the famed ship used by Jason and the Argonauts to fetch the Golden Fleece from Colchis (present-day Georgia). Vela forms the sail, Puppis the stern and Carina the keel (bottom). After the journey, Athena placed it among the stars to commemorate its voyage.

The Carina constellation can be spotted using Canopus, the brightest star in the sky when facing south. Canopus is named after the mythical navigator who piloted the ship of King Menelaus of Sparta during the Trojan War. From the Carina constellation, look to the east to find Vela the sail, and to the north to find Puppis the stern (all highlighted in **orange** on the star chart).



Gemini

The constellation Gemini represents the twin brothers Pollux (or Polydeuces for the Greeks) and Castor, known as the Dioscuri or "sons of Zeus". However in many versions of the myth, only Pollux was fathered by Zeus, with Castor said to be the son of King Tyndareus of Sparta, a mortal man. The twins were known for their kindness and generosity.

After Castor was mortally wounded, Pollux asked Zeus if he could share his immortality with his brother. Zeus agreed but only on condition that they spend alternate days on Mount Olympus and in Hades (the underworld). They were placed in the sky as the constellation Gemini, with a bright star named after each twin. Their division between heaven and the underworld may refer to the fact that Gemini is only visible for around half the year.

To find Gemini (highlighted in **yellow** on the star chart) first locate the Orion constellation. Find Orion's Belt, a distinctive line of three stars, and look to the north-east. Gemini can be spotted using its two brightest stars, Castor and Pollux.

What's On in January?

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

The Sky Tonight Planetarium show. 2.30pm daily

We Are Aliens! 3D Planetarium show. 10.30am, 12.30pm and 3.30pm daily

Dream To Fly Planetarium show. 11.30am and 1.30 daily



