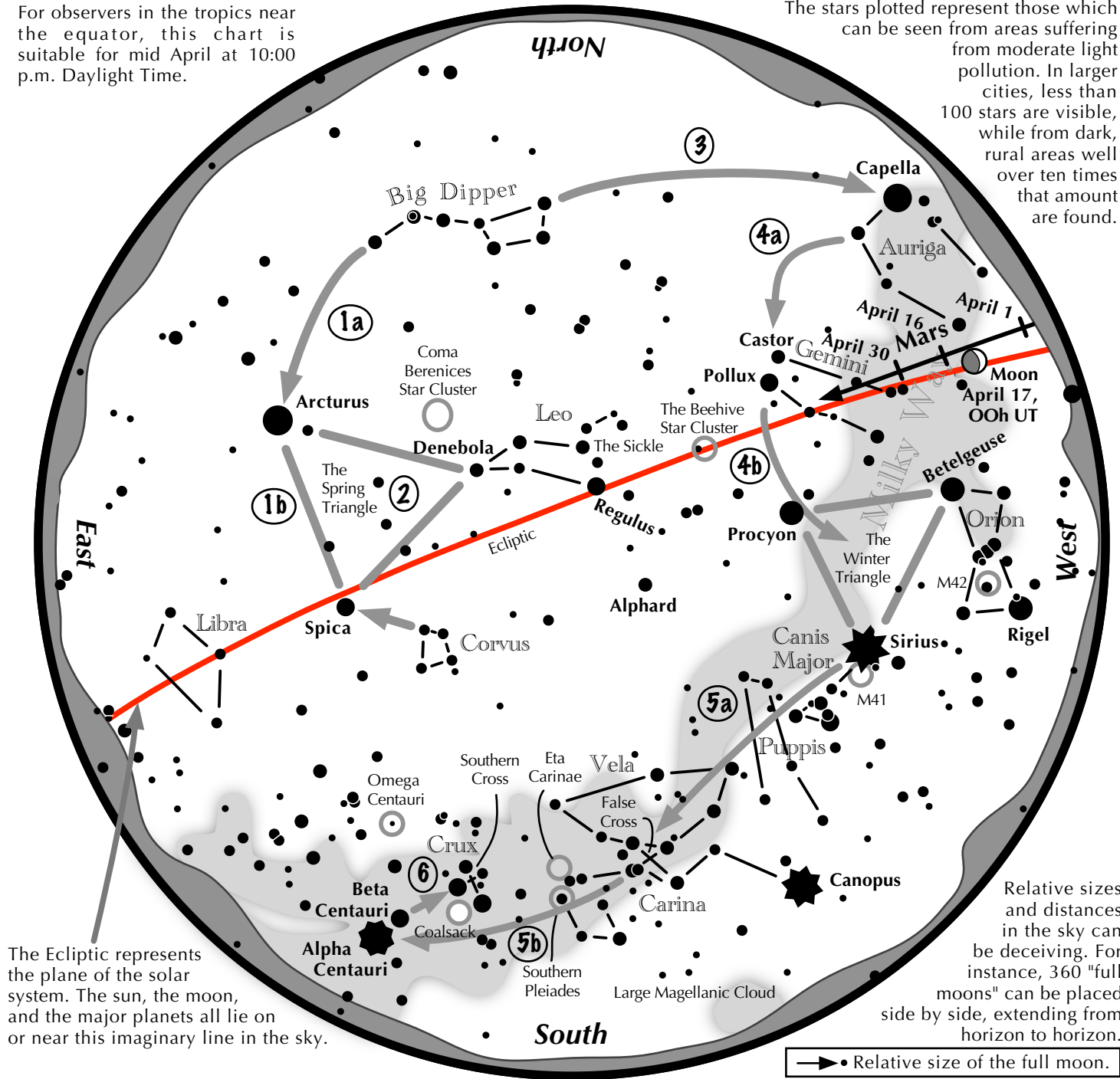


Navigating the April Night Sky, Equatorial Regions

For observers in the tropics near the equator, this chart is suitable for mid April at 10:00 p.m. Daylight 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 April night sky: Simply start with what you know or with what you can easily find.

- 1 Follow the arc of the Dipper's handle. It first intersects Arcturus, then continues to Spica.
- 2 Arcturus, Spica, and Denebola form the Spring Triangle, a large equilateral triangle.
- 3 Look low in the northwest for the star Capella.
- 4 High in the west-northwest, shine the two bright stars of Gemini, Castor and Pollux. In the west shine the three bright stars of the Winter Triangle: Sirius, Procyon, and Betelgeuse.
- 5 Follow the Milky Way from Sirius past many bright star clusters, the False Cross, the Southern Cross, and the Coalsack to Alpha Centauri.
- 6 Alpha and Beta Centauri point directly to the Southern Cross.



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