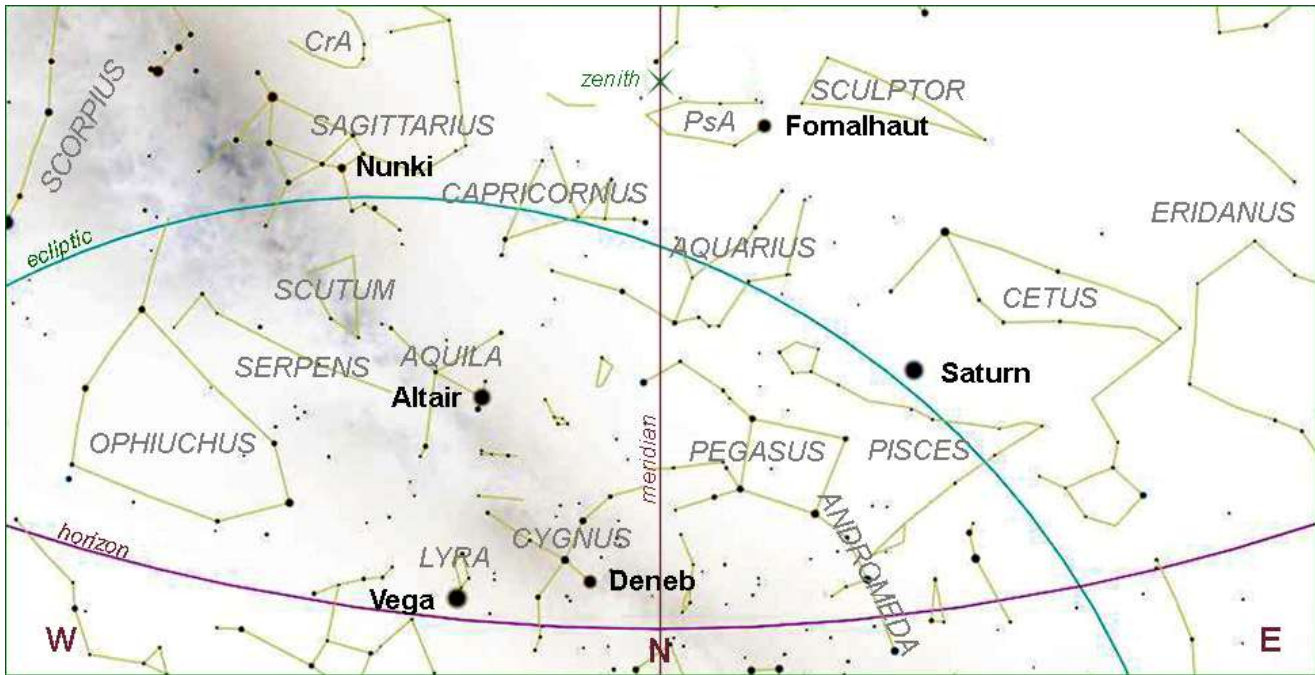
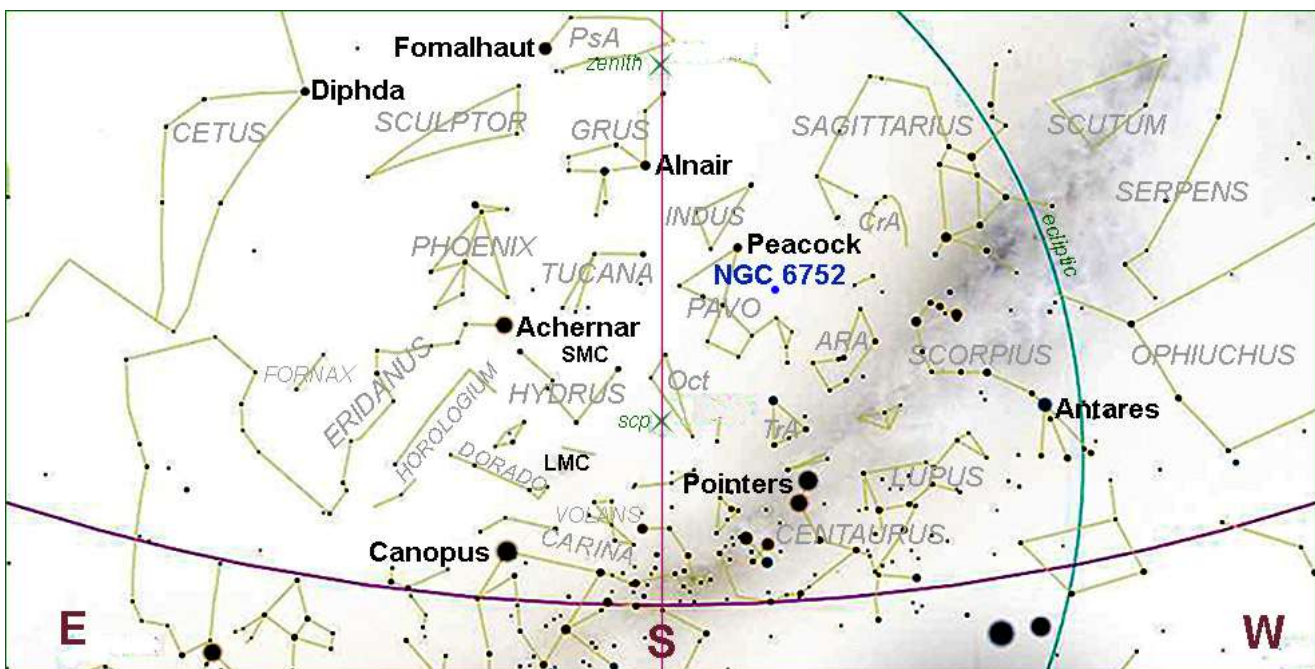


EVENING SKY – OCTOBER 8th at 21h30 (NORTH DOWN)



EVENING SKY – OCTOBER 8th at 21h30 (SOUTH DOWN)



SUGGESTED EVENING OBSERVATION WINDOW

(Lunar observations notwithstanding)

<u>Date</u>		<u>Moon</u>	<u>Dusk end</u>
October 1 to	Rise	23h18 (72%)	22h18
October 13	Set	22h01 (9%)	

THE SOLAR SYSTEM

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS based on the 2026 SKY GUIDE

All events are as observed from **HERMANUS**, Western Cape, South Africa

ALMANAC

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>
1		Callisto 7.4' from Jupiter
3	15h25	Last Quarter Moon
4		Titan 3.1' from Saturn
October 4 - 10		<i>WORLD SPACE WEEK</i>
7	20h49	Mercury and Venus set together
10	17h50	New Moon
		Callisto 7.4' from Jupiter
12	06h27	4% Moon near Venus
	20h48	4% Moon near Mercury
		Titan 2.7° from Saturn
14	23h00	15% Moon sets near Antares
17		<i>INTERNATIONAL OBSERVE THE MOON NIGHT</i>
18	18h13	First quarter Moon
		Callisto 7.6' from Jupiter
20		Titan 2.7' from Saturn
26	16h12	Full Moon
		Callisto 7.7' from Jupiter

EPHEMERIS

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>
1	22h41	Moon at perigee (369 338 km)
2	11h35	Moon northernmost (+27°47')
	15h40	Venus stationary
4	14h29	Saturn at opposition
	16h13	Saturn closest to Earth (8 434 au)
5		(2) Pallas at opposition (mag. +8.3)
		Dwarf planet Makemake in Conjunction with the Sun
7	03h19	Moon at descending node
12		Mercury at eastern elongation (25.2°)
13		(4) Vesta at opposition (mag. +6.4)
16	02h45	Moon southernmost (-27°53')
17	00h56	Moon at apogee (404 639 km)
		Mercury at dichotomy
19		Eris at opposition
21	10h53	Moon at ascending node
		Callisto Venus at inferior conjunction
		Titan Mercury stationary
25	03h42	Venus closest to Earth (0.273 au)
27		Haumea in conjunction with the Sun
28	20h01	Moon at perigee (364 411 km)
29	17h40	Moon northernmost (+27°47')

COMETS, ASTEROIDS AND METEORS

The link to the latest Comet, Asteroid and Meteor Section from **Tim Cooper**:

<https://assa.saa.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/sites/23/2026/09/ASSA-CAMnotes-2026-Number-4.pdf>

The latest Deep and Shallow Sky Bulletin by the Director, **Colin Steyn**, is now available to download from the webpage

<https://assa.saa.ac.za/publications/deep-sky/>

SOLAR SYSTEM VISIBILITY

2026 OCTOBER 8

Sun	Virgo	Rise:	06h10	Never look at the sun without SUITABLE EYE PROTECTION!
Length of day	12 hours 41 mins	Transit:	12h31	
		Set:	18h51	
Mercury	Libra	Rise:	07h10	Low in the west after sunset
Magnitude	-0.0	Transit:	14h01	
Phase	67%	Set:	20h54	
Diameter	6"			
Venus	Virgo	Rise:	06h43	Low in the west after sunset
Magnitude	-4.4	Transit:	13h47	
Phase	8%	Set:	20h50	
Diameter	54"			
Mars	Cancer	Rise:	03h04	Morning
Magnitude	+1.1	Transit:	08h10	
Phase	90%	Set:	13h15	
Diameter	6"			
Jupiter	Leo	Rise:	03h50	Morning
Magnitude	-1.9	Transit:	09h09	
Diameter	34"	Set:	14h29	
Saturn	Cetus	Rise:	18h21	All night
Magnitude	+0.3	Transit:	00h22	
Diameter	20"	Set:	06h18	
Uranus	Taurus	Rises:	22h45	Morning
Magnitude	+5.6	Transit:	03h50	
Diameter	4"	Set:	08h51	
Neptune	Pisces	Rise:	17h42	All night
Magnitude	+7.8	Transit:	23h45	
Diameter	2"	Set:	05h51	
Pluto	Capricornus	Rise:	12h48	Evening
Magnitude	+14.5	Transit:	19h59	
		Set:	03h15	

Phases: In a telescope, the inner planets (Mercury, Venus and Mars) appear to us in phases depending on the angle of the Sun's illumination, as does the **Moon**. The observed **angular diameter** is given in arc seconds.

Transit: When an object crosses the **local meridian**, it is said to 'transit'. The local meridian is an imaginary line from the horizon directly north passing overhead through *zenith* to the horizon directly south.

Magnitudes: We are accustomed to hearing the brightness of stars described in terms of 'magnitude'. But, for example, the star Sirius at magnitude -1.4 is considerably brighter than the star Antares (in Scorpius) at +1.05. The scale is 'inverse'; the brighter the object, the lower the value. A 'good' human eye on a clear night can see a star down to a magnitude of about +6.

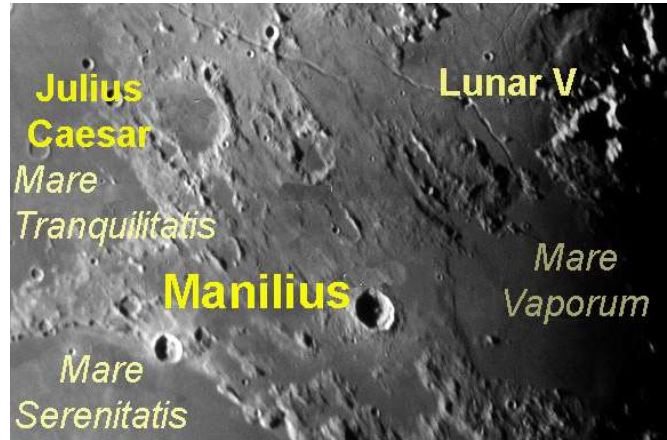
THE MOON

MARE VAPORUM

DESCRIPTION

This mare is located between the south-western rim of **Mare Serenitatis** and the south-eastern rim of **Mare Imbrium**.

Manilius is the lunar impact crater on the northeast edge of Mare Vaporum. Its diameter is 38 km. Manilius has a well-defined rim with a sloping inner surface that runs directly down to the ring-shaped mound of scree along the base, and a small outer rampart. The small crater interior has a higher albedo than the surroundings, and it appears bright when the sun is overhead. Within the crater is a central peak formation near the midpoint.



The crater also possesses a ray system that extends for a distance of over 300 kilometres. Despite the presence of these rays, which generally indicate the age of the crater as Copernican, the crater is currently mapped as Eratosthenian age.

NAMING

Manilius is named after the Roman astronomer **Marcus Manilius**. Like many of the craters on the Moon's near side, it was given its name by **Giovanni Riccioli**, whose 1651 nomenclature system has become standardized. Earlier lunar cartographers had given the feature different names. **Michael van Langren's** 1645 map calls it "*Isabellae Reg. Hisp.*" (Isabella, Queen of Spain), and **Johannes Hevelius** called it "*Insula Besbicus*" after the island in Turkey now known as **İmralı**.

Julius Caesar is a lava-flooded lunar impact crater with a low, irregular and heavily worn wall and diameter of 85 km. It was named after the Roman statesman Julius Caesar. It is located to the west of Mare Tranquillitatis, and directly southeast of the crater Manilius on the Mare Vaporum.

The interior floor of Julius Caesar is relatively level, especially in the south-western half. The northern half of the interior has a lower albedo (darker) than the south. Most likely the floor has been covered or modified by ejecta from the impact that created the Imbrium basin. There are crater remnants overlapping the rim along the south and northeast edges. A low ridge crosses the floor across the northeast sections of the crater.

BEST SEEN

Look for both craters about 1 day before **First quarter** (17th October).

No eclipses, lunar or solar, will be visible from southern Africa this month

IMAGE

Globular cluster NGC 6752



Image by the [IRIDA Observatory](#), a privately funded, remote-controlled astronomical facility located at the Rozhen National Astronomical Observatory in Bulgaria.

Optics	ASA 12" F3.6 Astrograph
Mount	ASA DDM85
Camera	FLI MicroLine 8300 CCD
Filters	Luminance, Red, Green, Blue. Astrodon
Date/Time	27 August 2014
Location	Namibia – TIVOLI ASTROFARM
Exp. Details	R:3x10 min. G:3x10min, B3x10min, Bin1 Total Exposure Time – 240 min
More details	Dark and Flat frames reduction
Processing	PixInsite / PS

NGC 6752

Caldwell 93, NGC 6777, “The Great Peacock Nebula”

<i>Description</i>	Globular cluster	<i>Visibility on 8th October</i>		
<i>Constellation</i>	Pavo	<i>Rises</i>	<i>Transits</i>	<i>Sets</i>
<i>Distance</i>	13.0 kly, 4.0 kpc	Does not rise	18h47	Does not set
<i>Magnitude</i>	+5.4			
<i>Apparent size</i>	20.4 arcmin			
<i>Diameter</i>	110 ly, 33.7 pc	<i>Naked Eye</i>	Yes, in excellent conditions	
<i>J2000 Dec/RA</i>	-59°59'04" / 19h10m52s	<i>Binoculars</i>	Yes, in good conditions	
<i>Alt/Az</i>	+53°16'42" / +213°14'41"	<i>Telescopes</i>	Yes	

NGC 6752

DESCRIPTION

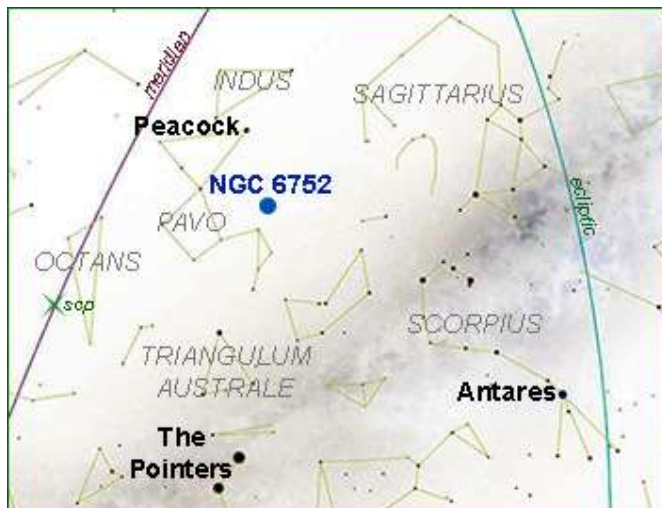
NGC 6752 is an impressive 6th magnitude globular cluster in the constellation **Pavo**. It is a large cluster with a dense concentration of stars. NGC 6752 can be nicely seen with a small telescope. The bright, 7th magnitude star appearing nearby is HD 177999.

DISCOVERY AND HISTORY

James Dunlop discovered this globular cluster on 28th July 1826 and catalogued it as **Dunlop 295**. This cluster may have been discovered previously by **Abbe Lacaille** in 1751-52 but measured at a position more than 10 degrees off.

AMATEUR OBSERVATION

NGC 6752 lies almost 14,000 light years away, across the galactic disc. It is a typical globular cluster, containing many hundreds of thousands of stars, and is one of the oldest known objects in the Universe. NGC 6752 was investigated by the Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope on Space Shuttle mission STS-67 in 1995.



Ian Ridpath's STAR TALES

Pavo

The peacock

Genitive:	Pavonis
Abbreviation:	Pav
Size ranking:	44th
Origin:	The 12 southern constellations of Keyser and de Houtman

The peacock is one of the 12 figures introduced into the southern skies at the end of the 16th century from the observations by the Dutch navigators Pieter Dirkszoon Keyser and Frederick de Houtman. Pavo seemingly represents not the common blue, or Indian, peacock commonly seen in parks but its larger, more colourful, and more aggressive cousin, the Java green peacock which Keyser and de Houtman would have encountered in the East Indies. Pavo was first depicted in 1598 on a globe by Petrus Plancius and first appeared in print in 1603 on the Uranometria atlas of Johann Bayer. As visualized by Plancius and Bayer the peacock had a more expansive tail, but its feathers were later trimmed by Lacaille to make room for his own invention Telescopium to the north.

In mythology the peacock was the sacred bird of Hera, who drove through the air in a chariot drawn by peacocks. How the peacock came to have eyes on its tail is the subject of a Greek myth that began one day when Zeus turned his illicit love Io into a white cow to disguise her from his wife, Hera, who nearly caught them together. Hera was suspicious and put the heifer under the guardianship of Argus, who tethered the animal to an olive tree. Argus was ideally suited to the task of watchman, since he had 100 eyes, of which only two were resting at a time while the others kept a look out. Wherever Argus stood, he could always keep several of his eyes on Io.

Zeus sent his son Hermes to release Io from her captivity. Hermes swooped down to Earth and spent the day with Argus, telling him stories and playing his reed pipes until, one by one, the eyes of Argus became sleepy and began to close. When Argus was finally asleep, Hermes lopped off his head and released the heifer. Hera placed the eyes of Argus on the tail of the peacock.

The constellation's brightest star, second-magnitude Alpha Pavonis, is called Peacock, a name given in or around 1937 by the UK's Nautical Almanac Office for use in The Air Almanac, a navigation guide produced for the Royal Air Force. The RAF specified that all navigation stars should have proper names, so this name was coined for the otherwise unnamed Alpha Pavonis.

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Please keep in touch...

Have a look at our excellent website, edited by Derek Duckitt – <https://www.hermanusastronomy.co.za/>

Contact ASSA - Get in touch with officers of the Society - we're real people with a passion for astronomy, so [contact us and let's talk!](#)

<https://www.mnassa.org.za/>

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