

CELESTIAL GUIDES

Celestial Sphere: An imaginary rotating sphere of "gigantic radius", concentric and coaxial with the Earth. All objects in the sky can be thought of as lying upon the sphere

Celestial Equator: A [great circle](#) on the imaginary [celestial sphere](#), in the same plane as the [Earth's equator](#). In other words, it is a projection of the terrestrial equator out into space. As result of the Earth's [axial tilt](#), the celestial equator is inclined by $\sim 23.5^\circ$ with respect to the [ecliptic plane](#).

North and South Celestial Points: Two imaginary points in the sky where the [Earth's axis of rotation](#), "infinitely extended", intersects the imaginary rotating celestial sphere.

Celestial Meridian: A great circle goes along North-South directions and crosses Zenith point of an observer.

Zenith: Over head point of an observer.

Ecliptic: The apparent path that the Sun traces out along the sky, in relation to the stars, and aligns with the planets throughout the course of the year

