

## How to navigate using the Southern Cross

### Finding the Southern Cross

The Southern Cross is almost always visible in the Southern Hemisphere – except for evenings in late spring at locations north of Sydney. Depending on time of year and time of night it might appear right way up, upside down or on its side.

Having a general idea of where South is helps. Otherwise, start by looking for the Milky Way and work out from there.

Sometimes it's easier to start by looking for the Pointers.

### The Pointers

Key to finding the Southern Cross in the night sky is often the Pointers – otherwise known as Alpha Centauri and Beta Centauri. A line through those stars always points to the top of the Southern Cross.

Also, the presence of the Pointers plus the smaller, fifth star of the Southern Cross confirms you're looking at the correct cross formation.

### Finding south

Imagine three lines across the sky:-

- the first bisects a line joining the two Pointers;
- the second is the vertical axis of the Cross and extends downwards; and
- from where the above two lines intersect the third line falls vertically to the horizon.

Where the first two lines intersect is the South Celestial Pole.

The third line gives you south.

