Lunartics – Sky Diary for January 2024

Two aspects of the sky for January 2024. The charts are from the Kstars planetarium program showing the sky for the North and South at 20.30 UT (Universal Time – (GMT). Kstars is an open-source program available to download.

North Sky Chart:



South Sky Chart:



Looking to the south, Jupiter is very prominent and a good binocular target. With reasonable sky conditions you can see the four larger moons of the planet, Io, Europa, Ganymede and Calisto (providing they are not occulted by Jupiter at the time of observing them). If you can support or mount your binoculars on a tripod then you may also be steady enough to observe the cloud bands of the planet. Uranus and Neptune are also in the sky along with Saturn, low down in the southwest. Orion is well placed in the southeast with the misty nebula visible in his sword. Just above, there are the Hyades cluster and the orange star Aldebran (the 'eye' of the Taurus the Bull). Above and to the right of the Hyades is the line-of-sight group called the Pleiades, or the 'Seven Sisters'.