Israel Open Astronomy Olympiad 2025

Instructions for use of Stellarium online sky map

The online sky map is available at https://stellarium-web.org/

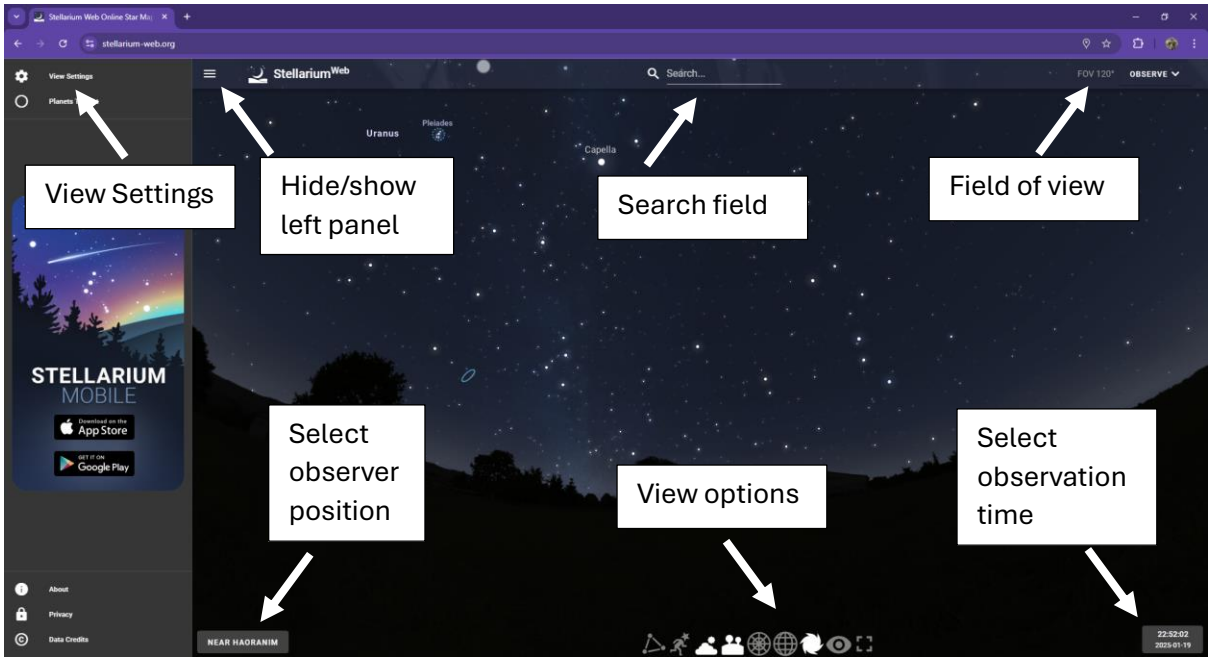

Figure 1. Initial Stellarium online star map view.

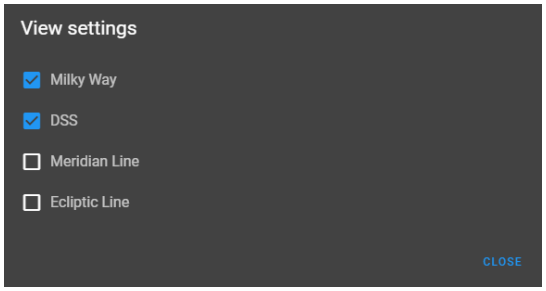

Figure 2. View settings window. Shown after clicking "View settings". If "DSS" is selected, the sky map will show the actual images from the DSS (Digitized Sky Survey) at high magnifications, when field of view is below 1° or so.

Figure 3. View options. See text for explanations.

The following view options are available in the online version of Stellarium (from left to right):

- Show/hide constellations. Will show/hide stick diagrams and constellation names. When clicking on the constellation name, will show borders of this constellation and information about it.
- Show/hide constellation art.

- Show/hide effects of atmosphere, i.e. atmospheric glow
- Show/hide horizon and landscape. If switched off, can see the stars below the horizon.
- Show/hide grid of the horizontal coordinate system (equal height and azimuth lines)
- Show/hide grid of the equatorial coordinate system (equal declination and right ascension lines)
- Show/hide deep sky objects (Messier objects, nebulae, galaxies)
- Switch red light mode on/off
- Switch to/from full screen mode

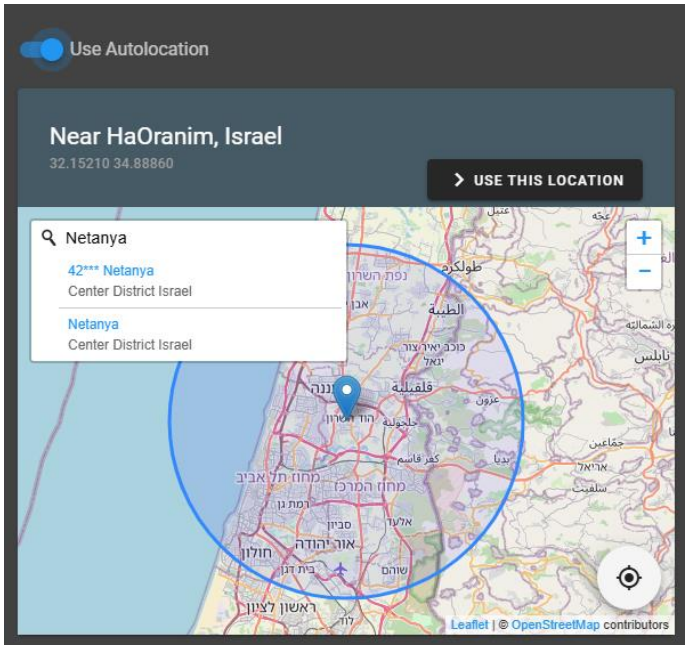

Figure 4. Set observer position. Current observer position is shown on map. After typing in "Netanya" and hitting Enter, several suggestions are shown. When clicking on one of them, the marker moves to the new location. After clicking on "Use this location" the sky map will be shown for an observer at the new location. Actual location name is shown in the bottom left corner of the main sky map window.

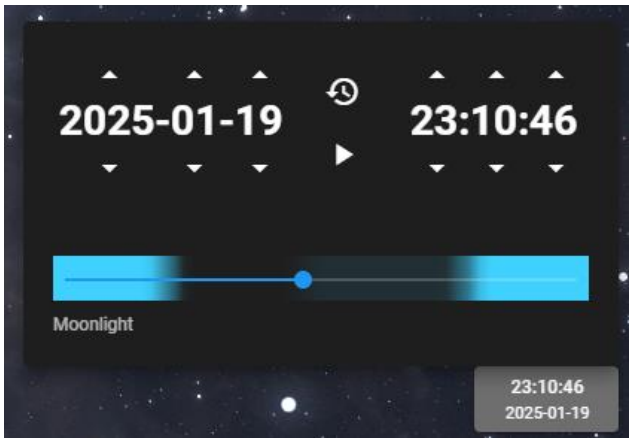

Figure 5. Select observation time. The time is always shown in the time zone where the computer is located.

Clicking on the time field in the bottom right corner, the time selection window will be shown. The user may choose the date and time of the observation, and the sky map will change

accordingly. The symbol will return the time to the current computer time. The button will start/pause the time. Then the time goes (default mode), the button will be shown as and the seconds will change. At large magnification it will be seen how the stars slew due to diurnal motion.

The bar at the bottom allows to roughly select the observation time within the night from evening (left) to the morning (right).

The sky map direction may be changed by clicking and dragging left mouse button. The zoom is changed by mouse wheel or two finger pinch on multitouch screen. Clicking on an object opens an information field:

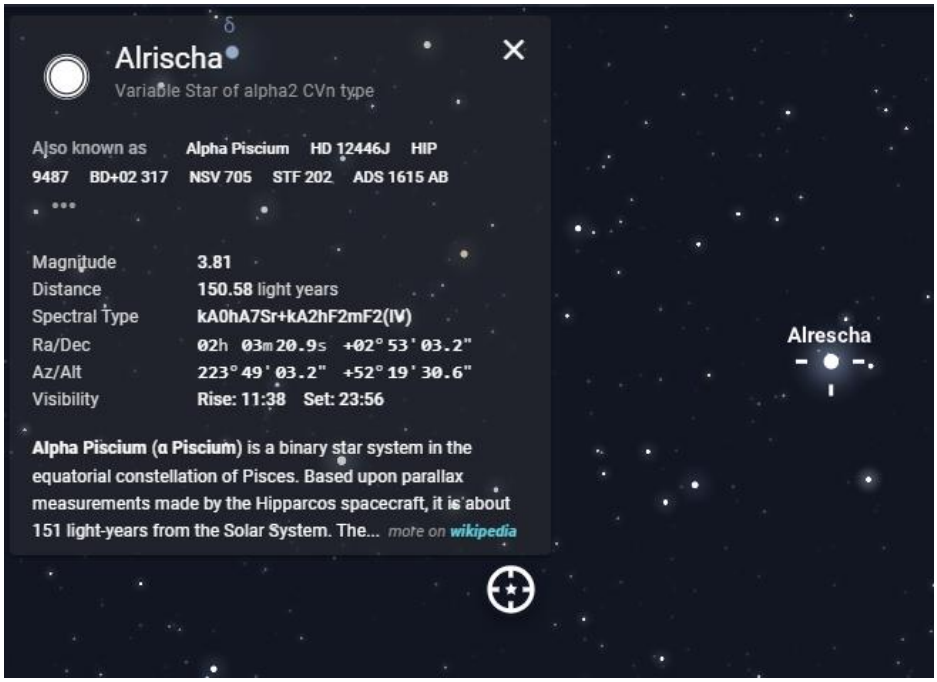

Figure 6. Object information field.

Clicking on the star-in-focus icon below the object information field switches on the auto-following the selected object as the time changes. The auto-following is stopped when the user moves the focus or selects a different object. When an object is followed, the zoom-in and zoom-out icons appear instead of the star-in-focus icon.