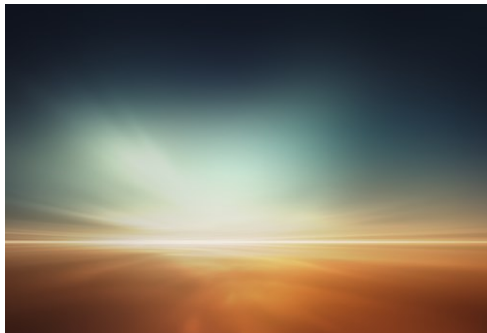


Mars

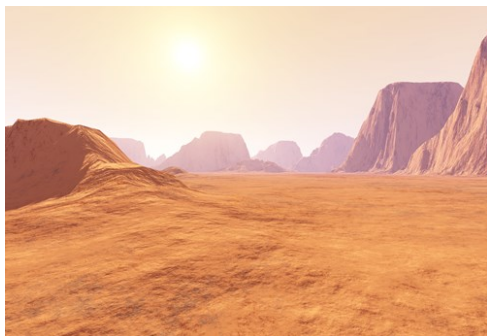
Photo: SergeyDV



pixelparticle



EpicStockMedia



Spectral-Design

The second smallest planet in our solar system (and the fourth from the sun) has shed its skin and come alive in recent times. It has transformed its image from that of an uninhabitable, hostile planet into a much coveted travel destination, a celestial body that might support life, and even a place many now wish to call home. The recent surge of interest in Mars is not just empty hype. We know more about it now than ever before and our understanding of its composition, geology, geography, climate and culture is growing by the day. That, along with all the new, exciting plans for development and thrilling discoveries about the presence of liquid water, mean that there has never been a better, more exciting time to visit.

QUIZ

*What Type of Traveller
Are You Based on
Your Travel IQ?*

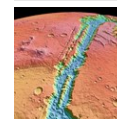
TAKE THE QUIZ

Top 5



Olympus Mons

Standing at an imposing 22 km tall, with a diameter of 600 km, the gargantua...



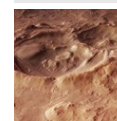
Valles Marineris

Valles Marineris is the second largest known chain of canyons in the solar s...



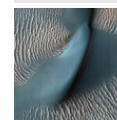
Water Adventures on Mars

The Red Planet's newest attractions revolve around the recently discovered p...



Hellas Basin

Hellas is one of the largest known impact craters in the solar system, belie...



Proctor Crater

One of the planet's most interesting craters, Proctor Crater has two types o...



THE PLANET



Michael Rosskothén

With a diameter roughly half that of Earth, you might expect Mars to be too small to dedicate an entire vacation to, but don't underestimate how many interesting things there are to see and do here. This small planet packs a punch when it comes to sights and attractions, and it can keep the most enthusiastic travelers busy for eons.

Martian geography surprises for its variety. As seen from Earth, Martian topography is divided into two main regions: the north is dominated by vast plains, flattened by flows of molten lava, while the south is largely mountainous, decorated by countless craters, the scars of millions of years' worth of meteoric impacts, the largest of these being the Hellas impact basin.

Adventure seekers will want to visit the vast upland region of Tharsis, home to some of the most extreme geography in the solar system. This region contains the solar system's largest volcano and second largest mountain (Olympus Mons, which reaches a staggering height of 22 km), as well as its largest canyon system (Valles Marineris, 4,000 km in length and 7 km deep), making it the preferred destination for nature-lovers, hikers and interplanetary adrenaline-junkies.

The weather on Mars tends to be cooler than on

Earth, averaging minus 60 degrees Celsius, and reaching extremes of minus 125 degrees during the winter. Summer is thus the best time to visit, when temperatures have been known to rise to as much as 20 degrees Celsius at midday in areas around the equator. This makes the most recent discovery about Mars all the more exciting, as observations by the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter have shown what appears to be flowing water on the Red Planet's surface, so get your swimsuit ready for Mars' famous red-sand beaches!

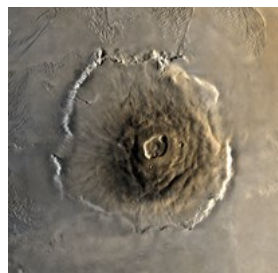
DO & SEE



Kim Briers

With the tallest volcano, the deepest canyon, the reddest beaches, countless craters and many more natural wonders to explore, Mars is a nature-lover's paradise. On top of that, all the new aquatic attractions have opened up a whole new world of possibilities for the whole family. Experienced extreme athletes can try anything from sand-boarding to surfing and kayaking, while anyone travelling with kids can enjoy a nice relaxing day at the beach. Breathtaking sceneries (punctuated by Mars' two moons) and boundless adventures await those bold enough to brave the expanse of the Red Planet. Those who make the long journey are sure not to be disappointed, as even the most avid explorer will not run out of exciting things to do anytime soon.

Olympus Mons



Standing at an imposing 22 km tall, with a diameter of 600 km, the gargantuan Olympus Mons is the largest volcano in the solar

system. It stands at almost three times the height of Mount Everest, so any adventurers embarking on a climb would do well to prepare for the challenge of a lifetime!

Photo: NASA

Address: Tharsis Region, Mars

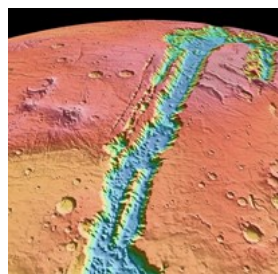
Public Transport: Olympus Mons Base Camp is accessible by Mars Metro Transport (MMT). Shuttle 503 has direct service from Central Station.

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 7am-6-30pm. Closed Mondays.

Phone: +733 60 32 99 98

More Info: Guided hikes leave every morning at 8am (available in English, French, German and Martian)

Valles Marineris



Valles Marineris is the second largest known chain of canyons in the solar system, surpassed only by the rift valleys here on Earth. Located in

the Tharsis Region, and following Mars' equator, it stretches along nearly a quarter of the planet's circumference, at a staggering 4,000 km long, 200 km wide and 7 km deep. A dream come true for hikers and spelunkers everywhere!

Photo: Mk (image cropped)

Address: Tharsis Region, Mars

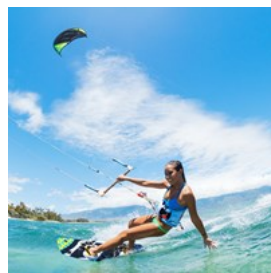
Opening hours: Access to the canyon is open daily during daylight hours

Phone: +733 48 88 26 91

Tickets: Access to the Valles Marineris Natural Reserve costs 500 MARS for adults and 300 MARS for children or students

More Info: Accommodation is possible at B&Bs along the main canyon rift

Water Adventures on Mars

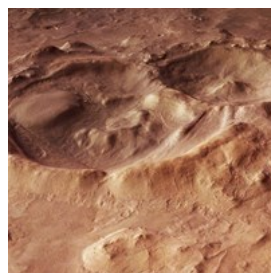


The Red Planet's newest attractions revolve around the recently discovered presence of flowing water on the surface. Vacationers can

actually enjoy many forms of water activities, from ancient hot springs to polar ice caps to the new attractions around flowing water. Some favourite destinations are the craters Terra Sirenum and Centauri Montes, where possible evidence of flowing water dates back as far as 1999. Most exciting, perhaps, is the possibility that this flowing water might be able to sustain life on Mars!

Photo: EpicStockMedia

Hellas Basin



Hellas is one of the largest known impact craters in the solar system, believed to have been formed by the impact of an enormous

asteroid early in the planet's life. At over 7 km deep it is over twice as deep as the Grand Canyon, and it extends about 2,300 km from one end to the other. It attracts thousands of tourists a year, all drawn by the fantastic rock climbing possibilities.

Photo: European Space Agency (image cropped)

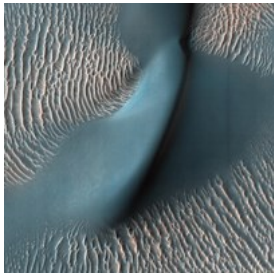
Public Transport: Private shuttles can be arranged for large expeditions, as MMT services don't go all the way to the basin

Opening hours: Only open during the summers, as conditions can get dangerous during sandstorm season

Phone: +733 10 01 56 40

More Info: For rock climbing lessons, contact one of the many agencies located along the crater's rim

Proctor Crater



One of the planet's most interesting craters, Proctor Crater has two types of dunes spread out across a massive dune field measuring 35 km by 65 km. The smaller ones are composed of very fine sand, while the larger ones are formed by dark sand from volcanic rocks. This is a favourite spot among local adventure-seekers who flock here to engage in some extreme sand-boarding and buggy rides on the pristine dune sands.

Photo: NASA (image cropped)

Address: Noachis Quadrangle, Mars

Opening hours: Mon-Thu 11am-7pm, Sat-Sun 9am-8pm

Tickets: Entrance to the crater is free, but you can rent boards by the hour for a small fee

More Info: Buggy tours leave 3 times per day: 11am, 2pm and 5pm

TOURIST INFORMATION



NASA/JPL-Caltech (image cropped)

Location

Mars is the fourth planet from the sun, and because both Mars and Earth are in orbit around the sun, the distance between the two can vary immensely. The closest they can be to one another is about 54.6 million km, while at their furthest that distance rises to about 401 million

km, so be sure to plan the timing of your trip well in advance, as this can greatly cut down on your travel time, and of course, pack plenty of food for the ride!

Size

The diameter of Mars is approximately half that of Earth, and the surface area is roughly a quarter. Because of the planet's size, mass and density, gravity on Mars' surface is about a third as strong as on our home planet, so if you are looking to greatly improve your long jump, Mars is the place for you!

Climate

The weather on Mars can be a bit extreme for our standards here. It takes 687 Earth days to orbit the sun, which means that the seasons last twice as long, and since Mars' orbit is the most elliptical of all the planets in the solar system, these seasons are extreme. The greater distance from the sun and the thinner atmosphere make it generally quite cold, with an average temperature of minus 60 degrees Celsius, though it can plummet to minus 125 degrees in winter near the poles, and reach a pleasant 20 degrees in summer near the equator. So pack a warm jacket and good walking shoes, but don't forget your sunscreen and sunglasses, because the sun's rays can still harm you through the thin Mars atmosphere.

Mars' signature redish sand can also results in massive sandstorms (the largest in the solar system) that cover the whole planet and can last for many months at a time. Conclusion: plan the timing of your travels very well!

Getting There

NASA has missions to Mars at somewhat irregular intervals. The trip takes approximately 7 months, and though it has historically been a

dangerous journey (only 16 of the 39 Mars missions have been successful since they began in 1960), the advances in the technology used today means that it is becoming safer all the time.

Currency

The currency used on Mars is the Marscoin (MARS), which is typically divided into three oval coins: the bronze pi, the silver teepi and the gold tanpi.

Approximate exchange rates (Aug 2019) are as follows:

1 MARS = 0.0023 USD
1 MARS = 0.0151 EURO
1 MARS = 0.0021 CNY

www.marscoin.org

Telephone

Mars Planet Code: +733
Roaming charges apply

EXPLORING FURTHER



3Dsculptor

Do you want to explore the galaxy further?
ArrivalGuides is there for you!

www.arrivalguides.com

Population

Currently, 7, but also possibly millions upon millions of microorganisms.

Mars is home to 7 functioning spacecraft: five in orbit—2001 Mars Odyssey, Mars Express, Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, MAVEN and Mars Orbiter Mission—and two on the surface—Mars Exploration Rover Opportunity and the Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity. There is also speculation as to whether Mars can and indeed does support microbial life. Research is currently underway.

The human population of Mars is expected to grow in 2026:
Mars One
www.mars-one.com

Currency

1 Marscoin = 0.0023 USD

Opening hours

Mars is open for business 24/7.

Internet

For more on exploring the solar system, the galaxy and beyond, be sure to visit the following websites:

www.space.com
www.nasa.com
www.mars-one.com
www.nineplanets.org
www.solarviews.com

Newspapers

Mars Tribune
Red Planet Daily
Martians
Modern Journal of Martian Affairs

Emergency numbers

In case of an emergency, contact Houston. Be sure to explain that "We have a problem."