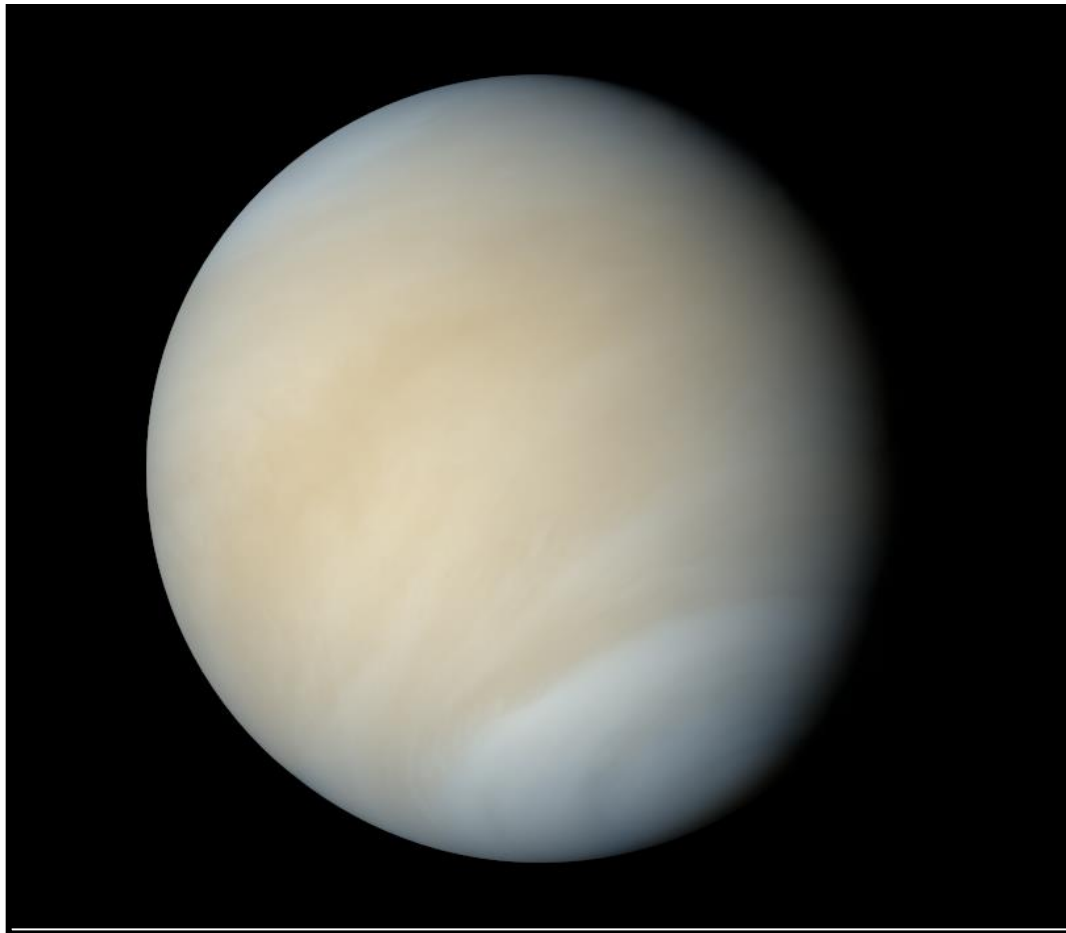


TAS > Venus >

The four smaller inner planets, Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars, are terrestrial planets, being primarily composed of rock and metal

Venus > Named after the Roman goddess of love and beauty



Diameter:	12,104 km
Mass:	4.87×10^{24} kg (0.82 Earths)
Moons:	None
Orbit Distance:	108,209,475 km (0.73 AU)
Orbit Period:	225 days
Surface Temperature:	462 °C

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Venus rotates in the opposite direction to most other planets. This means that Venus is rotating in the opposite direction to the Sun, this is also known as a retrograde rotation. One possible reason for this might be a collision with an asteroid or other object.

Venus is the second brightest object in the night sky. Only the Moon is brighter. With a magnitude of between -3.8 to -4.6 Venus is so bright it can be seen during daytime on a clear day.

Atmospheric pressure on Venus is 92 times greater than the Earth's. Due to this crushing small asteroids when they enter its atmosphere Venus has not small craters. The pressure felt on Venus' surface is equivalent to that deep beneath the sea on Earth.

Venus is often called the Earth's sister planet. The Earth and Venus are very similar in size with only a 638 km difference in diameter and Venus having 81.5% of the Earth's mass. Both also have a central core, a molten mantle and a crust.

Venus is also known as the Morning Star and the Evening Star. Early civilisations thought Venus was two different bodies. These were called Phosphorus and Hesperus by the Greeks, and Lucifer and Vesper by the Romans. When Venus' orbit around the Sun overtakes Earth's orbit, it changes from being visible after sunset to being visible before sunrise. Mayan astronomers made detailed observations of Venus as early as 650 AD.

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Guide To Observing
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Introduction

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Thaxted Astronomical Society

07789 933 111

ThaxtedAS@BTInternet.Com

www.ThaxtedAS.Com

