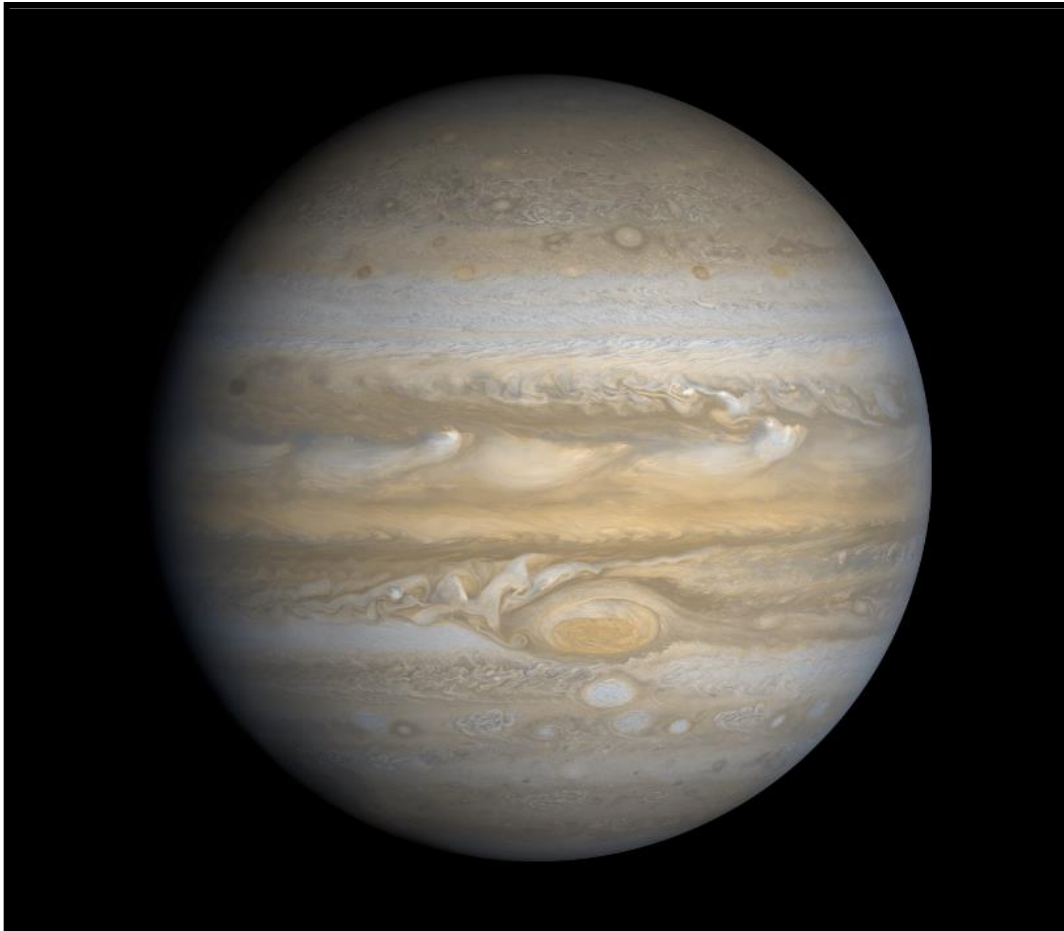


## TAS > Jupiter >

The two largest, **Jupiter and Saturn, are gas giants**, being composed mainly of hydrogen and helium

**Jupiter > Named after the Roman god Jupiter.**



<b>Equatorial Diameter:</b>	142,984 km
<b>Polar Diameter:</b>	133,709 km
<b>Mass:</b>	$1.90 \times 10^{27}$ kg (318 Earths)
<b>Moons:</b>	79 (Io, Europa, Ganymede & Callisto)
<b>Rings:</b>	4
<b>Orbit Distance:</b>	778,340,821 km (5.20 AU)
<b>Orbit Period:</b>	4,333 days (11.9 years)
<b>Surface Temperature:</b>	-108°C

The two largest, Jupiter and Saturn, are gas giants, being composed mainly of hydrogen and helium

**Jupiter > Named after the Roman god Jupiter.**

**Jupiter is the fourth brightest object in the solar system.** Only the Sun, Moon and Venus are brighter. It is one of five planets visible to the naked eye from Earth.

The ancient Babylonians were the first to record their sightings of Jupiter. This was around the 7th or 8th century BC. Jupiter is named after the king of the Roman gods. To the Greeks, it represented Zeus, the god of thunder. The Mesopotamians saw Jupiter as the god Marduk and patron of the city of Babylon. Germanic tribes saw this planet as Donar, or Thor.

**Jupiter has unique cloud features.** The upper atmosphere of Jupiter is divided into cloud belts and zones. They are made primarily of ammonia crystals, sulfur, and mixtures of the two compounds.

**The Great Red Spot** is a huge storm on Jupiter. It has raged for at least 350 years. It is so large that three Earths could fit inside it.

Jupiter's interior is made of rock, metal, and hydrogen compounds. Below Jupiter's massive atmosphere (which is made primarily of hydrogen), there are layers of compressed hydrogen gas, liquid metallic hydrogen, and a core of ice, rock, and metals.

**Jupiter's moon Ganymede is the largest moon in the solar system.** Jupiter's moons are sometimes called the Jovian satellites, the largest of these are Ganymede, Callisto Io and Europa. Ganymede measures 5,268 km across, making it larger than the planet Mercury.

Want To Know More?

TAS >

Thaxted Astronomical Society

·

Guide To Observing  
**Jupiter**

Introduction

SG0000

Want To Know More?

Contact TAS >



Thaxted Astronomical Society

07789 933 111

ThaxtedAS@BTInternet.Com

[www.ThaxtedAS.Com](http://www.ThaxtedAS.Com)

