



## Size of Planets

It's difficult to understand how large our Solar System really is. Pluto is usually 5 913 520 000 kilometres away from the Sun.

It's surprising to realise how large our Sun actually is compared to the planets as well. If the Sun was shrunk to the size of a bowling ball, Earth would be the size of a peppercorn 21 metres away and Jupiter would be the size of a large marble 113 metres away.

The first four planets (Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars) are close to the Sun. Then there is a large gap (filled with a belt of meteorites) before reaching the Solar System's two largest planets (Jupiter and Saturn).

Some of the Moons found orbiting around various planets can be quite large. Several moons (found orbiting Earth, Jupiter, Saturn and Neptune for example) are larger than Pluto.

**The actual size of each planet and its distance from the Sun is listed in the table below.**

<b>Planets</b>	<b>Planet diameter (kilometres)</b>	<b>Distance from Sun (kilometres)</b>
Mercury	4 878	57 909 175
Venus	12 102	108 208 930
Earth	12 756	149 597 890
Mars	6 794	227 936 640
Jupiter	142 984	778 412 020
Saturn	120 536	1 426 725 400
Uranus	51 118	2 870 972 200
Neptune	49 528	4 498 252 900
Pluto	2 390	5 906 376 200

### More Information

Exploratorium's Build a Solar System [http://www.exploratorium.edu/ronh/solar\\_system/](http://www.exploratorium.edu/ronh/solar_system/)

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory Solar System Exploration: The Planets

[http://sse.jpl.nasa.gov/features/planets/planet\\_profiles.html](http://sse.jpl.nasa.gov/features/planets/planet_profiles.html)

[http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/solar\\_system/](http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/solar_system/)

Views of the Solar System <http://www.solarviews.com/eng/homepage.htm>