**Venus[The Venusian symbol, a circle with a small equal-armed cross beneath it](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Venus_symbol.svg)**

[](http://annesastronomynews.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Venus1.jpg)**Date of discovery:** Prehistoric

**Distance from the Sun:** 108,208,930 km.

**Period of Revolution around the Sun:** 224.68 Earth days

**Period of Rotation:** 243 Earth days

**Volume:** 9.38x1011 km.3 (0.857 Earths)

**Mass:** 4.87x1024 kg. (0.815 Earths)

**Density:** 5.204 g/cm.3

**Diameter:** 12, 104 km.

**Mean Surface Temperature:** 735K (461.85 oC or 863.33 oF)

**Satellite:** 0

* The second planet from the Sun and the sixth largest.
* Greek: **Aphrodite**; Babylonian: **Ishtar**, the goddess of love and beauty.
* The brightest of the planets known to the ancient.
* It was popularly thought to be two separate bodies: the **morning star** and the **evening star**.
* Venus’ rotation is somewhat unusual in that it is both very slow (243 Earth days per Venus day), and is retrograde.
* It is regarded as **Earth’s Sister Planet**.
* It is composed mostly of carbon dioxide.
* There are several layers of clouds many kilometers thick composed of sulfuric acid.
* Venus’ surface temperature is about 400 to 740 K with the mean surface temperature of 735K (461.85 oC or 863.33 oF).
* It has several broad depressions: **Atalanta Planitia, Guineverre Planatia** and **Lavinia Planitia.**
* It has several large volcanoes such as **Sif Mons**.
* Craters on Venus seem to come in bunches indicating that large meteoroids that do reach the surface usually break up in the atmosphere.
* Has no magnetic field because of its slow rotation.