

## Mars

### Solar System

Our solar system is a vast and fascinating expanse, comprising eight planets, five dwarf planets, numerous moons, asteroids, comets, and other celestial bodies. At its center lies the star we call the Sun.

For more details about the Solar system see Chapter 1.

## Mars

Mars, the fourth planet from the Sun, is a cold, desert world with a thin atmosphere composed primarily of carbon dioxide. Its reddish hue comes from iron oxide, or rust, prevalent on its surface.

Basic facts about Mars:

- Distance from the Sun: Average of 228 million kilometers (142 million miles)
- Rotation Period: 24.6 hours (one Martian day - called a “sol”)
- Moons: Two small moons, Phobos and Deimos.