

The Transit of Venus

Witness it for yourself! This is the last time anybody alive today will see the spectacle.
Don't wait until next time - Dec 11, 2117.

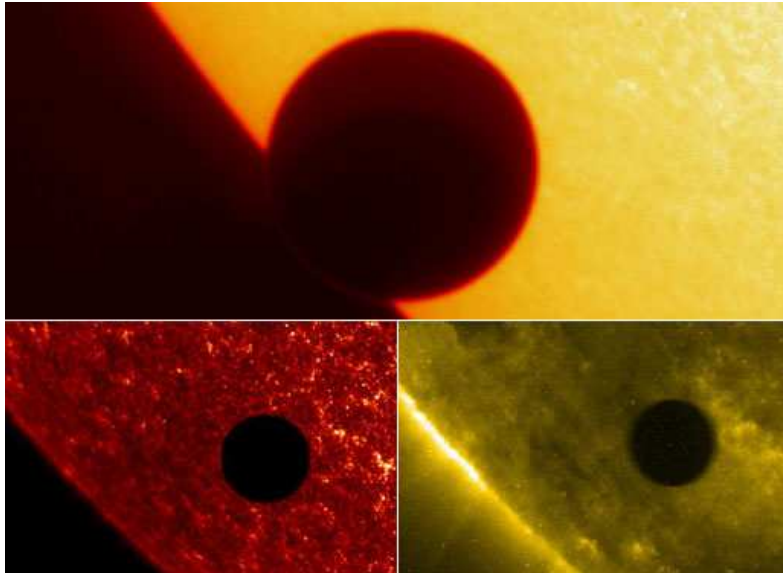


Image courtesy NASA/TRACE

What is a Transit?

Who discovered it?

Why did men risk their lives to observe this event?

What was the scientific importance of a Transit of Venus?

Why is this event so incredibly rare?

How can I view this event safely?

What is the mysterious "black drop effect"?

What in the world is a syzygy?

The sky had offered endless beauty and fascination to generations of humans. Stars, the Moon, and planets put on an ever unfolding dance as we watch. Once in a great while, special alignments make for unique events. "Once in a lifetime" implies a truly rare occurrence. Venus Transits are "twice in a lifetime" occurrences that happen 8 years apart with over 100 years until the next pair. The last Transit was on June 8, 2004. If you miss this one, the next time will be in the year 2117.

Read on to find out about planetarium programs before the event as well as live viewing opportunities.



Learn about the Transit of Venus at your neighborhood planetarium

The Planetarium Association of Western New York has teamed up to present When Venus Transits the Sun in the days leading up to the event. Come and learn about the Transit, how to view it safely, the historical and scientific significance, and why this event is so incredibly rare.

Williamsville Space Lab Planetarium

1595 Hopkins Road, Williamsville, NY 14221
Wed, May 30, FREE shows start at 6:30 & 7:15 pm

**Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium
at Buffalo State College**

1300 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222
Shows May 31 – June 6, Tickets \$3, Times vary
Info at: www.fergusonplanetarium.net



Brought to you by the
Planetarium Association
of Western New York

Free solar viewing glasses
to the first 100 visitors to
each planetarium!

Lackawanna High School Planetarium

550 Martin Road, Lackawanna, NY 14218
Wed, May 30, FREE shows start at 6:30 & 7:15 pm

See it LIVE through specially equipped solar telescopes on June 5th

The Transit begins at 6:03 pm for viewers in Western New York
DO NOT try to observe the Sun without taking proper safety precautions! Even an accidental glimpse through an unfiltered telescope, binoculars or camera could result in serious damage to your eyes.

Northtowns - Williamsville Space Lab Planetarium

Solar viewing will start at 5:30 pm – FREE!
Visit www.williamsvillek12.org/planetarium
for directions and information

Downtown - Buffalo Museum of Science

1020 Humboldt Pkwy, Buffalo, NY 14211
Rooftop opens at 5:30 pm
\$5 admission includes solar viewing glasses

**Southtowns - Penn Dixie Paleontological
and Outdoor Education Center**

FREE Solar viewing will start at 5:30 pm until sunset and
viewing of the Penn Dixie skies will continue after dark.
Visit www.penn Dixie.org for directions and information

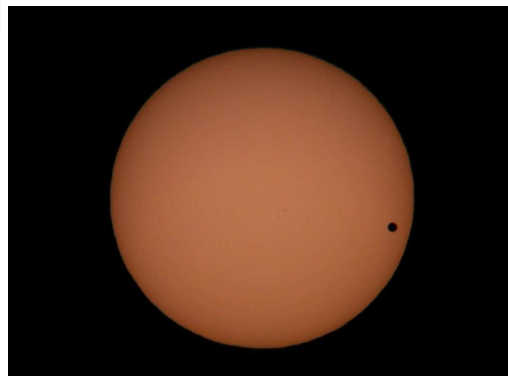


Photo by Mike Israel, Margaret-Louise Park, June 8, 2004