



ROYAL
OBSERVATORY
GREENWICH

Jupiter

Solar System



Holiday



Solar System Holiday



Jupiter

Jupiter is the largest planet in the Solar System, large enough to fit more than 1,000 Earths inside it. This giant planet looks very snazzy with multi-coloured stripes going all the way around it. These bands are clouds that wrap around the whole of Jupiter and contain the largest storms in the Solar System. The biggest of all is called the Great Red Spot, a storm twice the size of the whole Earth.

Jupiter isn't like the Earth as it is made out of gas so if you tried to walk on its surface you would sink straight through.

Days and nights on Jupiter are very short. It is light for only 5 hours each day and dark for around 5 hours too. That is less than half the normal day and night we have on Earth! A year on Jupiter is another matter though as it takes Jupiter almost 12 times longer than the Earth to make one full orbit around the Sun.

Jupiter has a huge number of moons! We know of 79 different moons around Jupiter and astronomers keep finding more. Not all of Jupiter's moons have names at the moment.

Type of object	Planet
How many Earths can you fit inside it?	1,321
Number of moons	79
What is it made of?	Gas
Main colour	Orange and yellow
How long is a year?	Almost 12 Earth years
How long is a day?	10 hours
Does it have seasons?	No
Minimum temperature (°C)	-145 (at top of atmosphere)
Maximum temperature (°C)	24,000 (at centre)

