



ROYAL
OBSERVATORY
GREENWICH

Uranus

Solar System



Holiday



Solar System Holiday



Uranus

Uranus is the coldest planet in the Solar System, partly because it is very far from the warmth of the Sun. Uranus has a beautiful light blue colour that comes from the clouds that fill its skies. Its air is filled with vast amounts of water, but none of it is useful to humans as it cannot be drunk.

Like the other gas giants Uranus has many moons, at least 27 of them. These moons aren't very big though and all of them are much smaller than Earth's moon. Uranus itself is big though and could fit 63 Earths inside it.

Uranus has an unusual way of spinning because it is the only planet in the Solar System to spin on its side. Early on its life, we think Uranus was probably hit by a really big object in space and was knocked over onto its side.

A day on Uranus is quite short compared to the Earth's but its year is much longer! One year on Uranus is roughly equal to 84 Earth years! This means that seasons on Uranus last for 21 Earth years.

Uranus is also the first planet to have been found by using a telescope, as all of the closer planets can be seen with just your eyes.

Type of object	Planet
How many Earths can you fit inside it?	63
Number of moons	27
What is it made of?	Gas
Main colour	Light blue
How long is a year?	84 Earth years
How long is a day?	17 hours
Does it have seasons?	Yes
Minimum temperature (°C)	-218 (at cloud layer)
Maximum temperature (°C)	4,272 (at centre)

