

What's Up in the Night Sky for FEBRUARY



Presented by

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

February 2025 Skywatching Tips from NASA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GREz2VFXBFI>

The Secrets of the Universe

Night Sky Events in February 2025 You Shouldn't Miss |

Planet Parade | Meteor Shower | Jupiter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ho-CdINahnI>

Science Points Out Paths to Interplanetary Adventure

January 29, 2025 by Alan Boyle



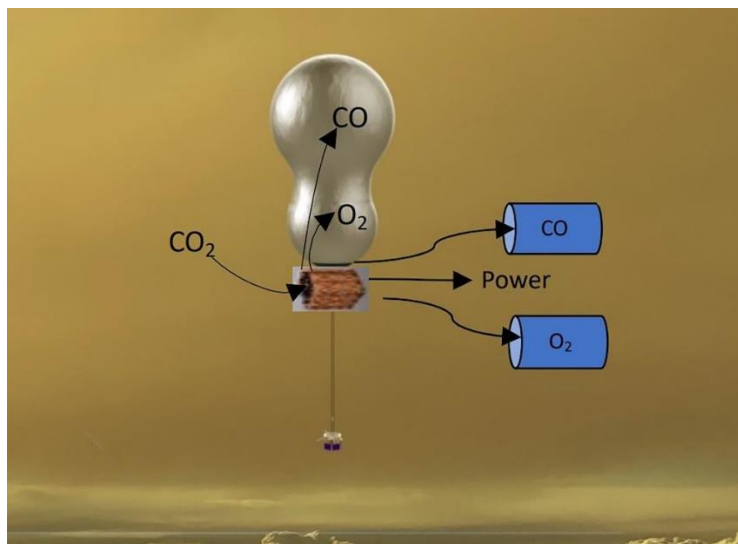
NASA engineers have laid out a concept for a "cloud city" of habitable airships in the atmosphere of Venus. (NASA Illustration)

What would you do for fun on another planet? Go ballooning in Venus' atmosphere? Explore the caves of Hyperion? Hike all the way around Mercury? Ride a toboggan down the slopes of Pluto's ice mountains? Or watch clouds roll by on Mars?

All those adventures, and more, are offered in a new book titled [“Daydreaming in the Solar System.”](#) But the authors don't stop at daydreaming: York University planetary scientist [John E. Moores](#) and astrophysicist [Jesse Rogerson](#) also explain why the adventures they describe would be like nothing on Earth. To read more click here: <https://rb.gy/kt4c54>

A Balloon Mission That Could Explore Venus Indefinitely

January 30, 2025 by Andy Tomaswick



Sometimes, the best innovative ideas come from synthesizing two previous ones. We've reported before on the idea of having a balloon explore the atmosphere of Venus, and we closely watched the progress of the Mars Oxygen ISRU Experiment (MOXIE) as part of the Perseverance rover on Mars. When you combine the two, you can solve many of the challenges facing balloon exploration of Venus' upper atmosphere – the most habitable place in the solar system other than Earth. That is the plan for Dr. Michael Hecht, the principal investigator of the MOXIE system and professor at MIT, and his team for the Exploring Venus with Electrolysis (EVE) project, which recently received a NASA Institute for Advanced Concepts (NIAC) Phase I grant as part of the 2025 NIAC awards. For more information click the link: <https://rb.gy/xm36kj>

The Building Blocks for Life Found in Asteroid Bennu Samples

January 29, 2025 by Matt Williams



Artist concept of NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft as it readies itself to touch the surface of asteroid Bennu. This mission is an early precursor to possible asteroid mining. Credits: NASA/Goddard/University of Arizona

The study of asteroid samples is a highly lucrative area of research and one of the best ways to determine how the Solar System came to be. Given that asteroids are leftover material from the formation of the Solar System, they are likely to contain vital clues about how several key processes took place. This includes how water, organic molecules, and the building blocks of life were distributed throughout the Solar System billions of years ago. For this reason, space agencies have attached a high importance to the retrieval of asteroid samples that are returned to Earth for analysis. To read more click here: <https://rb.gy/qrlia5>



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