

# Most habitable moon in our solar system

The most famous geysers in our solar system outside of Earth belong to Saturn's active moon Enceladus. It's a small, icy body, but Cassini revealed this world to be one of the solar system's most scientifically interesting destinations. Geyser-like jets spew water vapor and ice particles from an underground ocean beneath the icy crust of Enceladus.

The search for life beyond Earth is really just getting started, but science has an encouraging early answer: there are plenty of planets in the galaxy, many with similarities to our own. But what we don't know fills volumes. Observations from the ground and from space have confirmed thousands of planets beyond our solar system. [...]

Within the solar system, most of our astrobiological research is aimed at Mars, which is considered to be the next-most habitable body beyond Earth. However, future efforts are aimed at exploring ...

Ganymede is not only Jupiter's largest known moon -- it is also the largest across the entire Solar System. It's even larger than the planet Mercury. Previous evidence suggested that Ganymede contains more water than all of the Earth's oceans combined.

To find the most habitable places in the solar system, the researchers went down the list of worlds in the solar system. ... But the icy moon isn't alone at the top of the potentially habitable ...

When searching for habitability outside of Earth, scientists often look for water as one of the main indicators that a celestial object could host some form of life. Icy moons like Ganymede and Enceladus may not look like Earth, but they could be habitable in their own way. WHAT'S NEXT -- Ganymede is getting its very own mission soon.

Jupiter's moon Ganymede is the largest moon in our solar system, bigger than the planet Mercury and dwarf planet Pluto. NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has found the best evidence yet for an underground saltwater ocean on Ganymede.

The image above shows a comparison of the potential habitable space available on Earth, Mars, Europa, Titan, and Enceladus. The green spheres represent the global volume with the right physical ...

OverviewHistoryNameOrbit and rotationPhysical characteristicsOrigin and evolutionExplorationSee alsoGanymede, or Jupiter III, is the largest and most massive natural satellite of Jupiter, and in the Solar System. Despite being the only moon in the Solar System with a substantial magnetic field, it is the largest Solar System object without a substantial atmosphere. Like Saturn's largest moon Titan, it is larger than the planet Mercury, but has somewhat less surface gravity than Mercury, Io, ...

Saturn's largest moon, Titan, is an icy world whose surface is completely obscured by a golden hazy

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atmosphere. Titan is the second largest moon in our solar system. Only Jupiter's moon Ganymede is larger, by just 2 percent. Titan ...

The moon is thought to be among the most promising places to explore for life in our solar system. But much of that promise clings to an unknown -- the geologic activity of Europa's seafloor.

The size and mass of a planet can also influence how well it can support life, the researchers wrote. A rocky planet that is larger than Earth would have more habitable surface area, and ...

Our solar system contains eight planets and more than 200 moons. The large majority of those moons have no chance of being habitable, but some of them--Europa and Enceladus, for example--are ...

A diagram depicting the habitable zone boundaries around stars, and how the boundaries are affected by star type. This plot includes Solar System planets (Venus, Earth, and Mars) as well as especially significant exoplanets such as TRAPPIST-1d, Kepler-186f, and our nearest neighbor Proxima Centauri b. In astronomy and astrobiology, the habitable zone (HZ), or more ...

The discovery sets a new record for greatest number of habitable-zone planets found around a single star outside our solar system. All of these seven planets could have liquid water - key to life as we know it - under the right atmospheric conditions, but the chances are highest with the three in the habitable zone.

Moving on to Jupiter, Europa is the sixth-largest moon in the solar system. Data points toward the conclusion that there are in fact saltwater oceans beneath its 10-mile-thick icy surface. In fact ...

Overview Most of the exoplanets discovered so far are in a relatively small region of our galaxy, the Milky Way. ("Small" meaning within thousands of light-years of our solar system; one light-year equals 5.88 trillion miles, or 9.46 trillion kilometers.) Even the closest known exoplanet to Earth, Proxima Centauri b, is still about 4 light-years [...]

Beyond Earth, Jupiter's moon Europa is considered one of the most promising currently habitable environments in our solar system. Below Europa's icy surface, evidence suggests there is a global ocean over twice the volume of Earth's ...

The existence of a moon located outside our solar system has never been confirmed but a new NASA-led study may provide indirect evidence for one. New research done at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory reveals ...

9. Kepler-283 c. ESI: 0.79. Sitting 1,743 light years from Earth down the Sagittarius arm of our galaxy, Kepler-283 c discovered in early 2014 is one of the two planets that orbit the star Kepler-283. It lies about one-third the distance from its star than Earth and is allegedly among the most potentially habitable planets.

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The largest moon in our solar system might contain several layers of rock, water and exotic high-pressure ices. Interactions between rock and water are fundamental to microbial diversity on Earth. Ganymede is the only known moon with its own magnetic field, which causes auroras akin to those on Earth.

Based on what we've observed in our own solar system, large, gaseous worlds like Jupiter seem far less likely to offer habitable conditions. But most of these Earth-sized worlds have been detected orbiting red-dwarf stars; Earth-sized planets in wide orbits around Sun-like stars are much harder to detect.

How Many Moons Are in Our Solar System? Naturally-formed bodies that orbit planets are called moons, or planetary satellites. The best-known planetary satellite is, of course, Earth's Moon. Since it was named before we learned about other planetary satellites, it is called simply "Moon." According to the NASA/JPL Solar System Dynamics team, the current tally [...]

Along with the Earth's Moon, our solar system consists of more than 200 moons, but only a handful of them are targeted for astrobiology-related research, most notably two of Jupiter's Galilean ...

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Jupiter's moon Europa shows strong evidence of an ocean of liquid water beneath its icy crust. Beyond Earth, Jupiter's moon Europa is considered one of the most promising currently habitable environments in our solar system. Below Europa's icy surface, evidence suggests there is a global ocean over twice the volume of Earth's oceans ...

The planet completes an orbit every 242 days, positioning it similarly to Venus in our solar system. However, since Kepler-69c's host star is about 80 percent as luminous as the sun, the planet ...

Europa is the first habitable candidate on this list and if you don't already know about Europa, in short it's one of Jupiter's moons which is roughly 90% the size of our moon. It has a diameter of 3121.6km and is believed to have some of the largest oceans in our solar system, although the majority of its oceans lay under an ice surface.

"There are currently 175 known moons orbiting the eight planets in our solar system. While most of these moons orbit Saturn and Jupiter, which are outside the Sun's habitable zone, that may ...

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