



Photograph Saturn courtesy of NASA.

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Your rings are out of this world!

Saturn, the second largest planet in our solar system, has been known since prehistoric times. It is a gas planet, composed mainly of hydrogen and helium. In fact, Saturn is the least dense of all the planets. If there were an ocean large enough to put it in, Saturn would float! Its rings, made up of a huge number of small particles with independent orbits, make Saturn visibly different. Unlike the rings of other planets, those of Saturn are bright enough to be seen through a small telescope.

There are at least thirty moons that orbit Saturn (more are always being discovered), the largest of which, Titan, is bigger than the planet Mercury! Titan is of great interest to scientists due to an atmosphere that is very similar to that of early Earth. For this reason it is considered to be one of the most earth-like worlds we know of today. But before you start planning your next vacation, just keep in mind that Titan (and the rest of Saturn's moons) are over 700 million miles away!

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