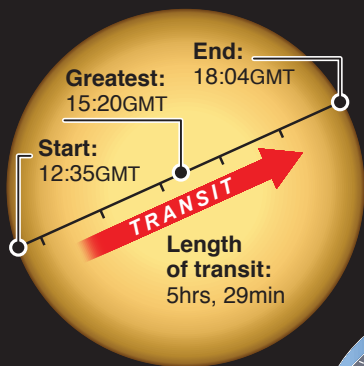


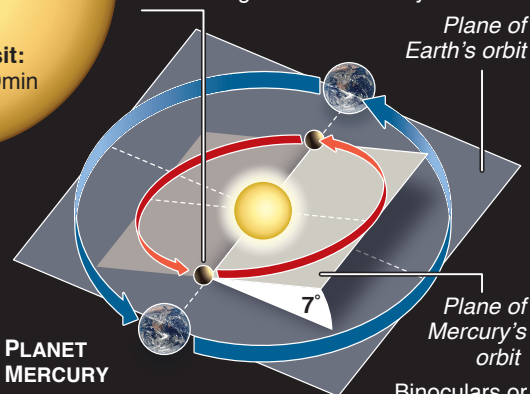
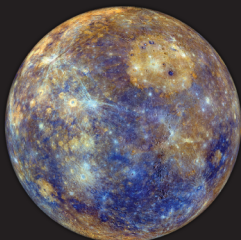
Skygazers await Transit of Mercury

On Nov 11, the innermost planet in our solar system will be visible as a tiny black dot moving across the face of the sun, a rare astronomical event that will not be seen again until 2032



Orbital planes align each May and November but as planets travel at different speeds, transit occurs only around 12 times per century

In November, Mercury reaches **perihelion** – point closest to sun – where its faster orbital motion makes alignment most likely



PLANET MERCURY

Closest planet to Sun
Diameter: **4,800km**
Mercurian year: **88 earth days**
Equator surface temp: **450C**

Binoculars or telescope with specialised solar filters required

Size of Mercury compared to continental U.S.



4,800km



4,313km



Transit at sunrise

Full transit visible

Transit at sunset

No transit visible



Do not look directly at sun with naked eye!