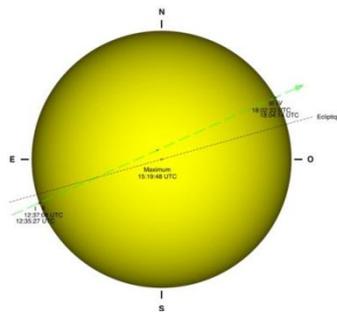


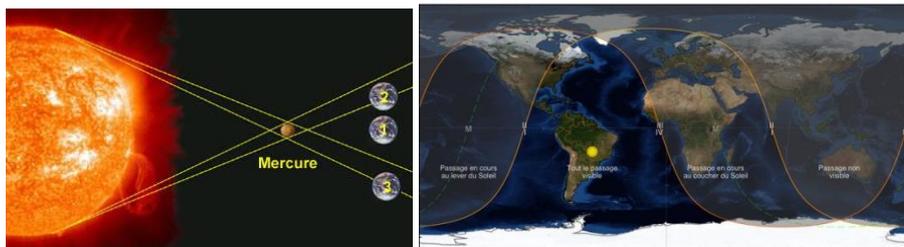
When Sun meets Mercury

The transit is a natural astronomic phenomenon which occurs when a celestial body interleaves between the observer and another body. The first celestial body appears to move in front of the second one. On Monday, November 11th, starting from 1.35 pm, planet Mercury is visible under the form of a small dot crossing the solar disk. To observe this phenomenon, it is necessary to wear astronomy glasses or adapted telescopes.



Planetary transits are much rarer than eclipses. Mercury transits occur about 13 times during a whole century.

During about five hours and a half, planet Mercury will cross the solar disk from east to west. It will be the first transit of Mercury since that of 2016 and will be visible in America, Africa, and Europe. The next one will only occur in 2032. So don't miss that of 2019!



Mercury transits occur on May or November. In the case when the transit occurs in May, Mercury is too close to the aphelion with an angular diameter of 12 arc seconds; however that of November has an angular diameter of 10 arc seconds. These transits can be observed only with astronomic observation instruments.

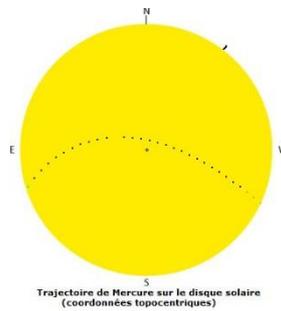
The circumstances of the 11th of November 2019 transit

1st contact: 1.35pm

Maximum of the transit: 4.19 pm

End of the transit: 7.04 pm

Sunset : 5.13 pm



What is the planet Mercury?

Mercury is a telluric planet, like planet Venus, Earth and Mars and it has no natural satellite. It is three times smaller than Earth and around twenty times less massive, however it almost has the same density of our planet, with a surface gravity almost equal to that of Mars. It is the nearest planet to the Sun. The Probe Mariner 10 traveled to Mercury two times during 1974 and 1975. It transferred photos showing a surface looking alike to the Moon. Its diameter is equivalent to one and a half to that of the Moon presenting multiple craters. Its surface has extreme temperatures which vary between -180°C and 430°C .



Mercury Planet

Warning:

It is dangerous to observe directly the Sun without eyes protection. To follow the phenomenon, the Tunis Science City puts at the disposal of the visitors the adequate instruments.