Nonsuch Park Solar System Walk

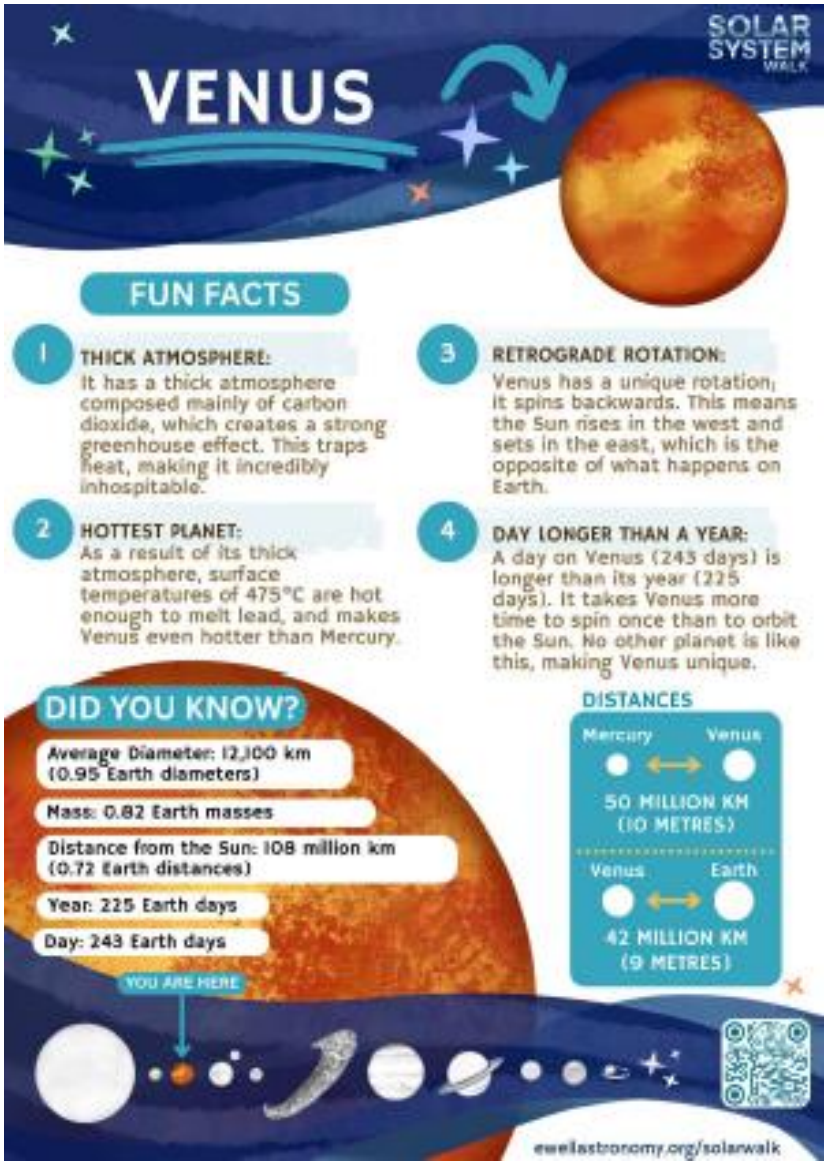
An update to the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee
13th October 2025. Martin Howe, Ewell Astronomical Society

The previous update on this project was at the JMC on 16th June 2025 where, following the successful funding bid with Surrey County Council Your Fund Surrey, the JMC gave final approval for the solar system walk.

Since that meeting:

- The walking route has been finalised, and a survey by the council for any sub-surface utilities was undertaken with nothing of concern identified
- The design work, undertaken by Whistlestop Arts, has been completed
- The signs for the beginning and end of the walk, along with the intermediate points, have been procured, along with the posts that these are to be fixed upon
- Development of a website, accessed via a QR code printed on the signs, is nearing completion
- A launch date of Saturday 25th October has been proposed. Final preparations for the format and attendees are well underway
- The project is currently tracking comfortably within budget

Some examples of the signs that have been designed by Whistle Stop Arts appear on the following pages.


SOLAR SYSTEM WALK
VENUS
FUN FACTS
1
THICK ATMOSPHERE:
It has a thick atmosphere composed mainly of carbon dioxide, which creates a strong greenhouse effect. This traps heat, making it incredibly inhospitable.
2
HOTTEST PLANET:
As a result of its thick atmosphere, surface temperatures of 475°C are hot enough to melt lead, and makes Venus even hotter than Mercury.
3
RETROGRADE ROTATION:
Venus has a unique rotation; it spins backwards. This means the Sun rises in the west and sets in the east, which is the opposite of what happens on Earth.
4
DAY LONGER THAN A YEAR:
A day on Venus (243 days) is longer than its year (225 days). It takes Venus more time to spin once than to orbit the Sun. No other planet is like this, making Venus unique.
DID YOU KNOW?
Average Diameter: 12,100 km (0.95 Earth diameters)
Mass: 0.82 Earth masses
Distance from the Sun: 108 million km (0.72 Earth distances)
Year: 225 Earth days
Day: 243 Earth days
YOU ARE HERE
DISTANCES
Mercury
Venus
50 MILLION KM (10 METRES)
Venus
Earth
42 MILLION KM (9 METRES)
eweastronomy.org/solarwalk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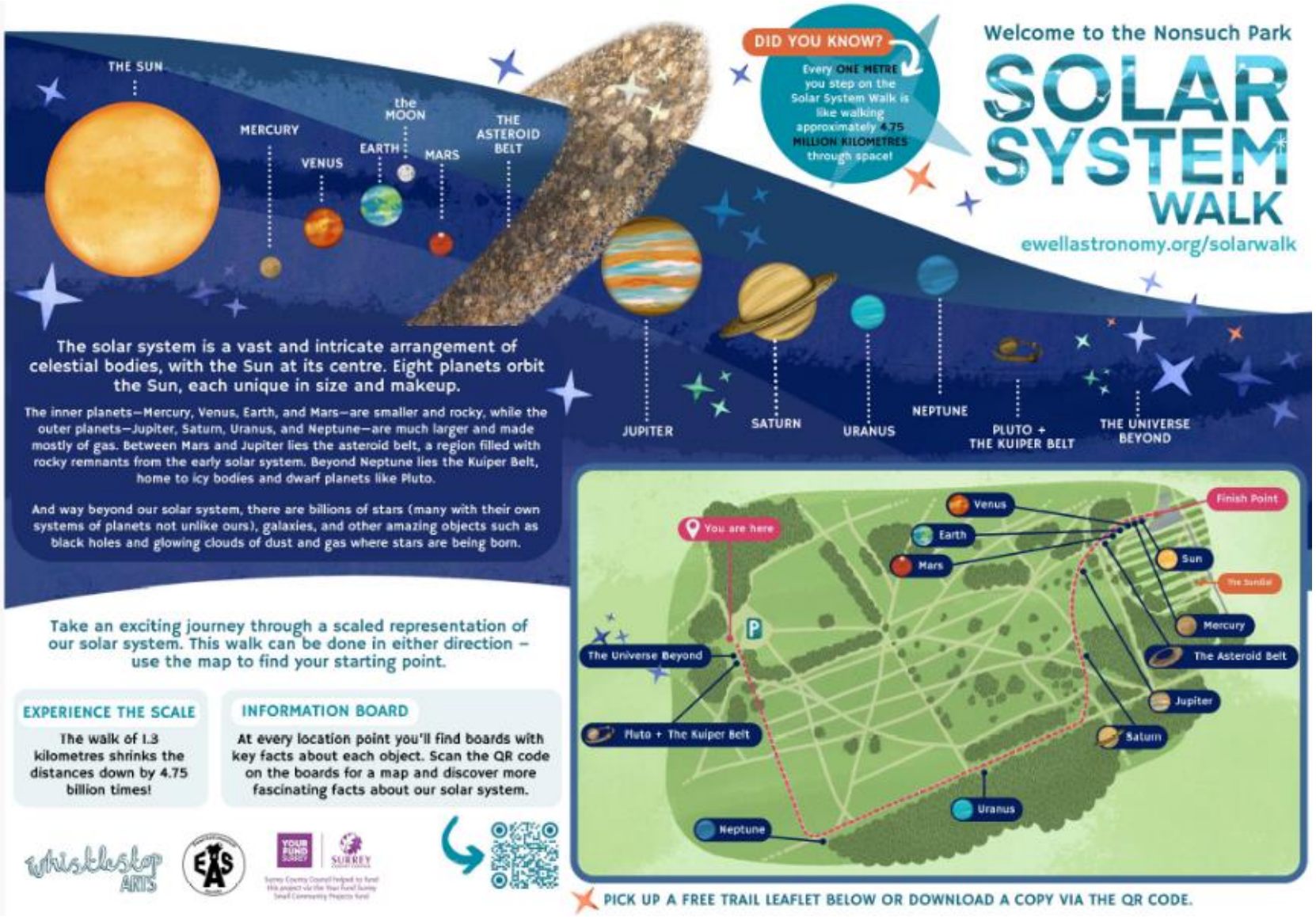
THE SUN
MERCURY
VENUS
EARTH
the MOON
MARS
THE ASTEROID BELT
JUPITER
SATURN
URANUS
NEPTUNE
PLUTO + THE KUIPER BELT
THE UNIVERSE BEYOND
DID YOU KNOW?
Every ONE METRE you step on the Solar System Walk is like walking approximately 4.75 MILLION KILOMETRES through space!
Welcome to the Nonsuch Park
SOLAR SYSTEM WALK
ewellastronomy.org/solarwalk
The solar system is a vast and intricate arrangement of celestial bodies, with the Sun at its centre. Eight planets orbit the Sun, each unique in size and makeup.
The inner planets—Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars—are smaller and rocky, while the outer planets—Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune—are much larger and made mostly of gas. Between Mars and Jupiter lies the asteroid belt, a region filled with rocky remnants from the early solar system. Beyond Neptune lies the Kuiper Belt, home to icy bodies and dwarf planets like Pluto.
And way beyond our solar system, there are billions of stars (many with their own systems of planets not unlike ours), galaxies, and other amazing objects such as black holes and glowing clouds of dust and gas where stars are being born.
Take an exciting journey through a scaled representation of our solar system. This walk can be done in either direction – use the map to find your starting point.
EXPERIENCE THE SCALE
The walk of 1.3 kilometres shrinks the distances down by 4.75 billion times!
INFORMATION BOARD
At every location point you'll find boards with key facts about each object. Scan the QR code on the boards for a map and discover more fascinating facts about our solar system.
You are here
Venus
Earth
Mars
Finish Point
Sun
The Sunflie
Mercury
The Asteroid Belt
Jupiter
Saturn
Uranus
Neptune
Pluto + The Kuiper Belt
The Universe Beyond
PICK UP A FREE TRAIL LEAFLET BELOW OR DOWNLOAD A COPY VIA THE QR CODE.