

<<行星>>

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内容概要

With nearly 200 spectacular images, *The Planets* launches itself on an awe-inspiring tour of our celestial neighbourhood. Travelling outwards from the Sun, every planet is visited in a journey that ultimately extends a full light year into space, to the very fringes of the Solar System where the Sun is no longer the brightest star in the sky. It surveys the scorched, volcanic plains of Venus, follows the tracks of robotic rovers over Mars, touches down on the asteroid Eros, plunges through Titan's atmosphere with the Huygens probe, and reveals Pluto to be just one of a myriad of ice worlds that lurk beyond Neptune's orbit. Mankind's fascination with the planets has lasted millennia, but only in the last few decades has their full glory been revealed - unveiled by a fleet of interplanetary probes. And the closer we look, the more wonderful they are: Venus's clouds are laced with sulphuric acid; water once flowed over Mars's deserts; Jupiter's storms rage for centuries at near-supersonic speeds; Saturn is surrounded by a commonwealth of exotic moons; and diamonds may rain from Neptune's turbulent blue skies. As our robotic scouts hurtle through space and our telescopes grow ever more powerful, they have revealed the Solar System to be more vibrant, startling and populous than we ever imagined. We live in a new Age of Discovery and the gallery of strikingly beautiful images on display in this book are without doubt its most precious jewels.

作者简介：Giles Sparrow studied Astronomy at University College London, and Science Communication at Imperial College. He has acted as a consultant and contributor on numerous popular science books, including *Universe* (Dorling Kindersley 2005). He is the author of *The Universe and How To See It* (Reader's Digest, 2001) and *Cosmos* (Quercus, 2006).

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