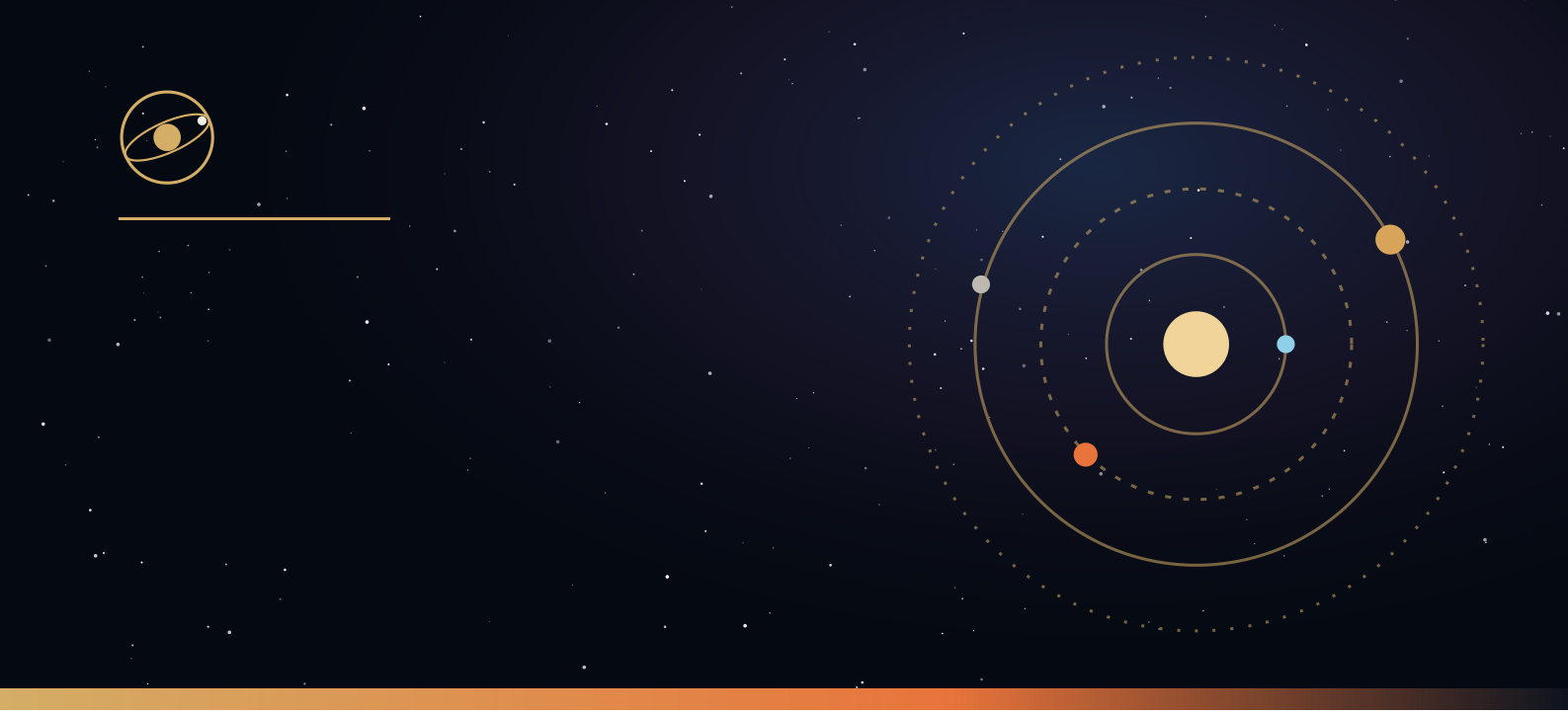


Departure Planning and Scheduling Guide

Pelorus Voyages · Voyage Operations · Revised 22 April 2042

This guide explains how Pelorus Voyages departure schedules work, what you need to do to meet muster deadlines at each stop, what happens if you miss a departure, and what the Outer Space Transport Compact means for passengers in an emergency. Understanding these rules before you travel is not optional — the vessel will not wait, and the costs of a missed departure are substantial.

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1. Why Departures Cannot Wait

Pelorus Voyages departure schedules are determined by orbital mechanics, not policy. Each leg of an expedition operates within a planetary transfer window — a period when the relative positions of two bodies allow an efficient trajectory between them. Outside that window, a transfer either requires substantially more fuel, takes significantly longer, or is not practically achievable within the voyage's fuel budget. The vessel cannot hold station while it waits for late passengers; every hour of delay burns fuel budgeted for the transit itself.

The Earth-Mars synodic period is approximately 26 months — that is how often Earth and Mars reach the right relative position for an efficient transfer. Pelorus Voyages publishes Inner Planets Survey and Grand Solar Tour departure dates quarterly. The departures fall in favourable alignment periods within those windows; they are not arbitrary calendar dates. Missing the Mars departure from Moon Base 7 does not mean catching the next ship in a few days. The next scheduled Pelorus Voyages departure from Mars Colony 1 may be weeks or months away, depending on where you are in the alignment cycle.

Within a multi-stop itinerary, each leg depends on the one before it. A two-hour hold at the Mars departure ripples forward: the Venus transfer window narrows, the Ceres approach timing shifts, and the Saturn ring transit — which requires the vessel to be positioned precisely relative to the ring plane — may be missed entirely. The schedule is not padded; every connection is load-bearing.

Departure windows at each stop are 4 to 8 hours wide. The exact window is published in the voyage manifest issued at Earth departure. Passengers should treat the muster deadline as the **latest possible moment** to board, not a target time. Pelorus Voyages recommends building at least 30 minutes of personal buffer into all surface excursions: return to the vessel 30 minutes before the muster deadline, not at it.

No exceptions are made for late passengers, for any reason. This policy protects the 200 or more other passengers whose itinerary depends on the same departure window. If you miss departure, contact the Pelorus Voyages expedition coordinator at the stop immediately. Coordinator posts remain staffed for four hours after each departure.

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2. Check-in and Muster Deadlines by Stop

All times are in minutes **before the published departure window opening**. Missing the muster deadline closes the manifest. The vessel will not hold.

Stop	Check-in / muster deadline	Muster point	Critical notes
Earth Launch Terminal	180 minutes	Terminal 7, Gate 22	Baggage drop must be completed 4 hours before departure. Biometric check-in opens 6 hours prior. Pre-departure health check with Pelorus Voyages staff at Terminal 7, Medical Suite B, within the 72 hours before departure (most passengers take it on departure day).
Moon Base 7 (IPS / ORT transit stop)	90 minutes	Bay 3 Airlock, Level B	All surface excursions must end and suits returned before entering Bay 3. Excursion equipment drop-off adds 15 minutes — factor this in.
Moon Base 7 (GST extended layover)	90 minutes	Bay 3 Airlock, Level B	Golf Links last tee time must be booked no later than 2 hours before muster. Rover tour must return at least 2 hours before muster.
Mars Colony 1	60 minutes	MC-1 Airlock Bay B, Hab Ring 2	All EVA suits must be returned and docked before entering Airlock Bay B. EVA suit return takes 10–15 minutes — factor this into excursion end time.

Venus — The Aphrodite	30 minutes	Docking Pier 1, Resort Deck 2	Pool and sun deck close 45 minutes before departure. Glass floor tour final group must exit by 60 minutes before departure. Gondola must begin its return ascent by 90 minutes before departure (gondola recovery and docking time).
Ceres Waystation	45 minutes	Waystation Hub Central, Dock 4	Surface tether lines must be returned and logged before entering the pressurised hub; tether return at the equipment station adds 10 minutes. The Leap platform closes 60 minutes before departure.
Saturn Ring Transit	N/A — no surface stop	N/A	Observation deck closes 30 minutes before ring exit burn. No disembarkation at this stop.
Titan Ice Flats	75 minutes	Excursion Base Alpha, Airlock 2	**Cold-suit decontamination is mandatory and takes approximately 20 minutes.** Plan excursions to end at least 95 minutes before the departure window, not 75. Ice sports equipment must be returned before decontamination begins.
Enceladus Geyser Flyover	N/A — no surface stop	N/A	Observation deck viewing only. Plume residue cleaning of observation windows begins 60 minutes after closest approach; visibility may be restricted during this process.

Critical timing notes

Titan is the most commonly misunderstood deadline. Passengers frequently plan to arrive at Excursion Base Alpha 75 minutes before departure — which is the posted muster deadline — not accounting for the mandatory 20-minute cold-suit decontamination. The effective minimum return time from any Titan surface excursion is **95 minutes before the departure window**, not 75.

Venus gondola recovery. The gondola takes 30 to 40 minutes to dock and secure after the ascent from the descent point. The gondola must begin its return ascent no later than 90 minutes before departure. The gondola operator enforces this timeline independently and will not extend it.

Moon Base 7 golf. Round times vary with party size and experience. Pelorus Voyages recommends booking the morning round (starting between 0700 and 1100) rather than the afternoon round to avoid close muster margins on the GST layover.

Muster is not boarding. Presenting at the muster point by the deadline means you are counted on the manifest. Boarding then proceeds in cabin class order: Pathfinder first, then Navigator, then Pioneer, except that Pathfinder loyalty tier members board ahead of all cabin classes and Navigator tier members board before Pioneer cabin class passengers. Passengers who arrive at the muster point with fewer than 20 minutes remaining before the departure window may not complete boarding before the airlock seals.

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3. Missed Departure — Your Options

If you are not present at the muster point by the published deadline, the manifest closes and the vessel departs without you. Contact the Pelorus Voyages expedition coordinator station at the stop immediately. Coordinator posts remain staffed for four hours after departure.

Voluntary vs. involuntary classification

The first thing the coordinator will determine is whether the missed departure is voluntary or involuntary. This classification directly affects what your travel insurance covers.

Involuntary: caused by a documented medical emergency — the passenger was physically unable to return to the vessel due to a medical event, assessed and recorded by Pelorus Voyages medical staff or a licensed physician at the stop. Standard travel insurance covers involuntary missed departures.

Voluntary: everything else — excursion overruns, losing track of time, equipment delays within your control, or any personal decision to extend a surface stay. Standard travel insurance does **not** cover voluntary missed departures. The Extraction Coverage add-on is the only insurance product that covers voluntary missed departure costs.

Three options after a missed departure

Option 1 — Pickup on the next scheduled Pelorus Voyages itinerary calling at the same stop. This is typically the least expensive option but not necessarily the fastest. Stop frequency varies: Moon Base 7 and Mars Colony 1 see multiple Pelorus departures per quarter during alignment periods; Ceres, Titan, and Enceladus are ORT and GST only, and the next scheduled departure calling there may be weeks away during low-frequency periods. Pickup is subject to available berth capacity and is charged at the extraction fare — typically 40 to 80 percent of the original voyage package price, depending on the remoteness of the stop.

Option 2 — Charter extraction arranged through the Pelorus Voyages expedition coordinator. Charter cost varies by destination. Inner system stops (Moon, Mars, Venus) are generally quotable within 24 to 48 hours at one to two times the original voyage price. Outer system stops (Ceres, Titan, Enceladus) are significantly more expensive and are quoted individually; no standard rate applies at these distances. Charter availability is not guaranteed — there may not be a suitable vessel available at an outer system stop within an acceptable time frame.

Option 3 — Independent third-party transport arranged entirely by the passenger. Pelorus Voyages is not responsible for conditions, timing, safety certifications, or cost of independent transport. See Section 4 for notes on mining transport under the Outer Space Transport Compact.

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4. Mining Transport and the OSTC 2038

The Outer Space Transport Compact of 2038 (OSTC) requires any commercial vessel operating in cislunar space or beyond to accept a documented distressed traveller on request, provided the vessel has life support capacity to accommodate an additional person. Mining transport operators at Moon Base 7, Ceres Waystation, and outer system waypoints are bound by this compact.

What the OSTC provides is **passage, not service.** Mining transports are working cargo vessels. The berth available to a distressed passenger is a fold-down bunk in a shared crew cabin, access to the crew galley (standard rations, no dietary options), and use of crew lavatory facilities. There is no passenger lounge, entertainment system, or medical bay beyond basic first aid. Some transports have an intermittent communications relay; others have none.

The more significant limitation is **routing.** A mining transport's schedule is set by its cargo manifest. A Ceres-based transport heading toward the inner system might route through the Vesta processing station, complete two or three cargo transfers, and reach cislunar space six to eight weeks after departure. The drop-off point will be a cislunar transfer station — not Earth surface. Passengers still need to arrange their own descent from the transfer station, which adds additional cost and time.

Under the OSTC, the mining operator cannot charge the distressed traveller for passage. However, this does not make the experience free in any practical sense: weeks of additional travel time, cost of return from the transfer station, meals and personal necessities beyond crew rations, and any other incidental costs are entirely at the passenger's expense.

Pelorus Voyages strongly recommends purchasing the **Extraction Coverage add-on** before departure. In almost every scenario, the add-on results in a faster return under substantially better conditions than a mining transport. The mining transport option is legal recourse under the OSTC and represents a genuine fallback; it should be considered a last resort, not a plan.

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5. Medical Events During Transit

Medical emergencies during a transit leg are handled by the vessel's medical bay as the first response. If the flight surgeon assesses that the condition cannot be safely managed aboard for the remainder of the leg, the vessel may divert to the nearest appropriate facility. The captain makes the final diversion decision on the flight surgeon's recommendation.

Diversion affects all passengers on board. The threshold is a condition that poses a serious risk to the passenger's life or long-term health if not treated at a higher level of care within the available transit time.

Nearest diversion points by leg:

- *Earth–Moon–Mars legs:* reverse to the last stop or continue to the next, whichever is closer at the time of the event.
- *Outer system legs (Ceres to Enceladus):* Ceres Waystation is the primary emergency facility in the outer system. It maintains a permanent emergency medical dock, provides stabilisation and telemedicine consultation with Earth specialists, and can hold a patient for up to 30 days while awaiting a medical repatriation flight.

Emergency diversion costs are covered by standard travel insurance when the event is documented by the flight surgeon as a genuine medical emergency. Passengers diverted are entitled to a proportional refund of the unused voyage days under trip interruption coverage.

The flight surgeon contacts the passenger's registered emergency contact via the vessel's communications system as soon as bandwidth allows. From the outer system, light delay means this notification may take two to three hours to reach Earth.

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