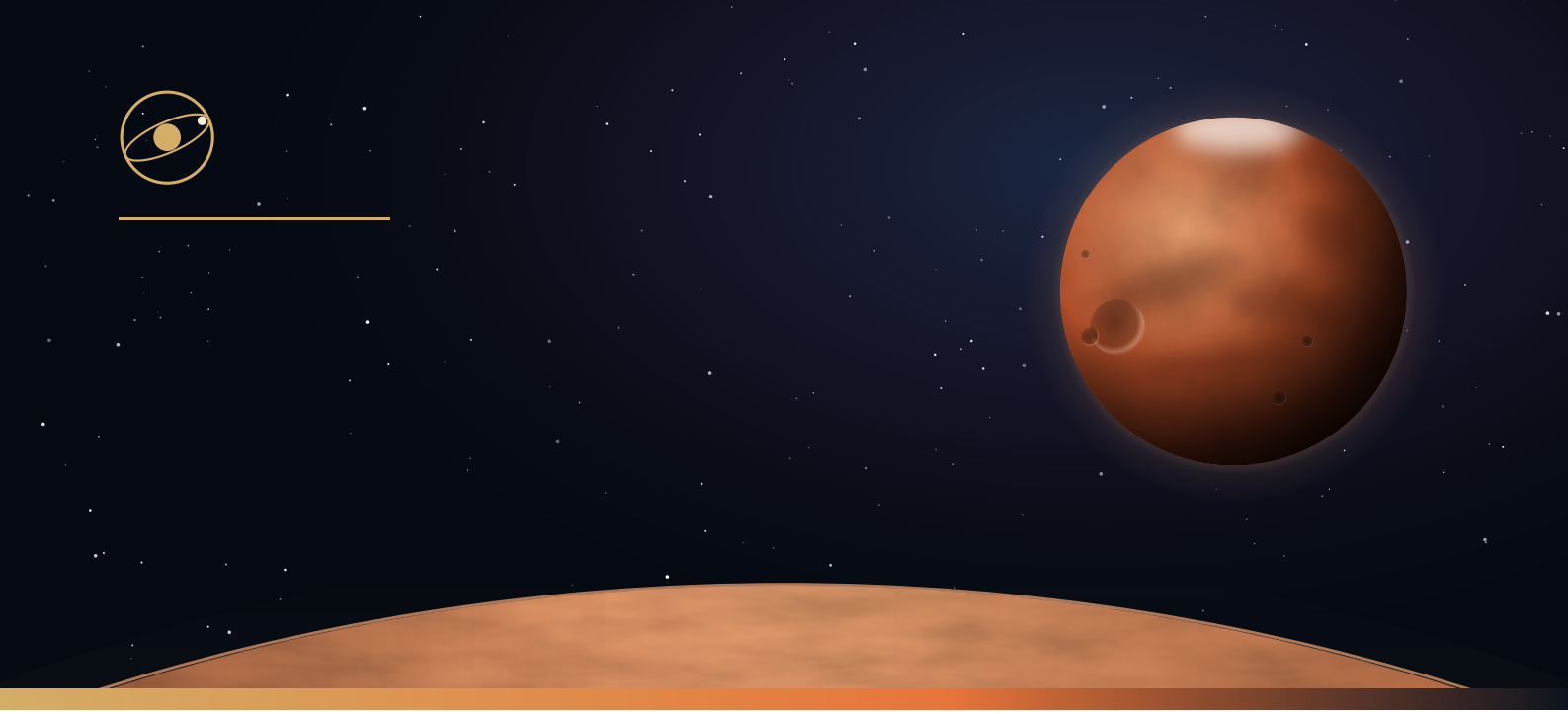
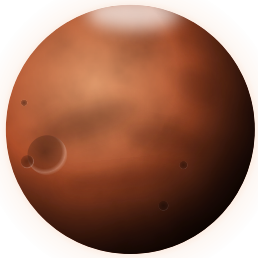


Inner Planets Survey — Complete Voyage Guide

Pelorus Voyages Voyage Guides · For 2042–43 departures · Issued 5 April 2042



The Inner Planets Survey is Pelorus Voyages's 18-day expedition to the Moon, Mars, and Venus. It is the most frequently available itinerary, the shortest, and the best entry point for first-time expedition passengers. This guide covers every leg of the voyage with practical guidance on what to expect, how to prepare, and where the planning decisions are.

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1. Voyage Overview

Duration: 18 days
Itinerary: Earth → Moon Base 7 → Mars Colony 1 → The Aphrodite (Venus) → Earth
Propulsion: Continuous-thrust fusion drive, 0.15g sustained acceleration and deceleration
Departure: Earth Launch Terminal 7, Gate 22

The IPS is not a quick trip — 18 days is a significant commitment. It is, however, the most accessible itinerary in the Pelorus Voyages portfolio: it includes three dramatically different environments (low gravity at the Moon, red planet surface at Mars, floating resort at Venus), the full range of EVA and non-EVA experiences, and a return profile that gets passengers home before the outer system legs begin. Passengers who complete an IPS in Navigator or Pathfinder class typically earn enough Orbital Points to qualify for or approach Navigator loyalty tier.

2. Day-by-Day Schedule

Day	Stop / Leg	Duration	Included excursions (NCL/PFL)	EVA available	Transit to next stop
1–2	Earth → Moon Base 7 transit	2 days	—	No	—
3	Moon Base 7 layover	~4 hours	None — transit window	No	Moon → Mars, 4 days
4–7	Moon → Mars Colony 1 transit	4 days	—	No	—
8–10	Mars Colony 1 stay	3 nights	Cydonia Highlands; Hellas Basin Overlook; Terraforming Operations Zone	Yes (surface EVA)	Mars → Venus, 3 days
11–13	Mars → Venus transit	3 days	—	No	—
14–16	Venus — The Aphrodite	3 nights	Pool and sun deck; Glass Floor Tour; Venus Science Centre	No — pressurised station	Venus → Earth, 2 days
17–18	Venus → Earth return	2 days	—	No	—
18	Earth arrival	—	—	—	—

3. Earth to Moon Base 7 (Days 1–2)

The Earth departure burn is the most intense acceleration phase of the voyage — a 45-minute burn with a peak of 2.2g in the first 8 minutes before the drive throttles to the sustained 0.15g transit level. All passengers must be secured in their berths with acceleration harnesses during the burn. The departure burn schedule is announced 30 minutes in advance by vessel intercom.

After the burn, 0.15g transit gravity takes over. Most passengers notice it immediately — objects feel lighter, liquids need sealed containers, and the inner ear begins its adjustment. The first 24 to 72 hours involve mild adaptation symptoms for many passengers, and most adapt within 48 hours (head congestion, slight nausea, a sensation of floating while seated). These are normal. The outer observation deck and EVA storage area are restricted for the first 48 hours.

Earth-to-Moon transit time: 2 days. **Light delay at lunar arrival:** 1.3 seconds — essentially real-time. Calls home from the Moon Base 7 layover function normally.

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4. Moon Base 7 Layover (Day 3)

The Moon Base 7 layover for IPS passengers is approximately 4 hours — sufficient for the vessel transfer (boarding the Perihelion Express from the Earth-Moon transport), any pre-voyage processing, and departure, but not for shore excursions.

What IPS passengers do at Moon Base 7: - Vessel transfer from Earth-Moon transport to the Perihelion Express - Processing of any outstanding documents

EVA suit orientation for IPS passengers booked on Mars surface excursions is not done here: it is an in-person session at the Earth departure gate before launch. The IPS does not visit Ceres, so no Leap waiver is needed.

IPS passengers who want Moon shore excursions (Heritage Site, Golf Links, Rover Tour) must book the Grand Solar Tour. Moon surface access is not available on an 18-day Inner Planets Survey.

The 4-hour Moon Base 7 window passes quickly. Pelorus Voyages recommends eating at the commercial concourse — it is the last chance for Earth-style food options before the Mars stay.

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5. Moon to Mars Colony 1 (Days 4–7)

The Moon-to-Mars transit takes 4 days at 0.15g. This is the longest uninterrupted transit of the IPS, and the first extended transit after the brief Earth-Moon leg. Passengers who found the first 2-day transit manageable typically find this one comfortable; the adaptation is largely complete by Day 2 of the voyage.

Programming during the Moon-to-Mars transit includes the Mars destination briefing from the science officer — the most logistically important lecture of the IPS, covering surface excursion options, the EVA

briefing overview, and the Martian sol schedule at MC-1. Attend this lecture; the Mars stay is time-limited and planning it in advance matters.

Light delay by Day 7: 3 to 22 minutes one-way depending on Earth-Mars orbital position. Replies from Earth take 6 to 44 minutes round-trip. The vessel message relay queue handles communications; plan to send home messages early in the day rather than assuming immediate response.

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6. Mars Colony 1 Stay (Days 8–10)

Three nights at Mars Colony 1. This is the most activity-dense segment of the IPS — the only days in the 18-day voyage with surface EVA, access to multiple distinct excursions, and a dramatically different gravity environment (0.38g vs. 0.15g transit).

Day 8 (Sol 1 — Arrival) — vessel arrival and transfer to the expedition wing. Gravity adjustment to 0.38g. Most passengers feel energised by the higher gravity initially. The EVA suit briefing (mandatory for first Mars surface excursion; approximately 45 minutes) is typically scheduled for the afternoon. Book the Olympus Fitness Test for Day 8 morning if you are a Pathfinder passenger intending the Caldera Rim hike — it must be completed at least 48 hours before the hike, and the hike window is Day 10.

Day 9 (Sol 2 — Primary excursion day) — main excursion day. Navigator and Pathfinder passengers have Cydonia Highlands, Hellas Basin Overlook, and Terraforming Operations Zone included. The Hellas sunrise excursion departs around 0430 local time; passengers who want it should book it and prepare for the early start. Cydonia and the Terraforming tour can both be completed on the same day with a full schedule.

Day 10 (Sol 3 — Secondary excursions) — second full day. The Caldera Rim hike for Pathfinder passengers who passed the fitness test. Other passengers may use Day 10 for any excursions not completed on Day 9, or for rest and the colony's common areas.

Muster reminder — all EVA suits returned and at MC-1 Airlock Bay B **60 minutes** before departure. EVA suit return takes 10 to 15 minutes. End surface excursion activity at least 75 minutes before the departure window.

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7. Mars to Venus (Days 11–13)

The Mars-to-Venus transit is 3 days — the shortest leg between two stops on the IPS. The dramatic change at the end of this leg (from 0.38g Mars to 0.88g The Aphrodite) is worth anticipating. After days at Martian gravity, Venus feels heavy to most passengers. Pelorus Voyages provides a gravity re-adaptation orientation at Venus arrival.

The science officer's Venus destination briefing typically runs on Day 12. The Gondola Descent cannot be booked during the voyage: it must be booked before departure (add-ons close 48 hours before the Earth departure window), and the gondola typically fills well in advance.

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8. The Aphrodite — Venus (Days 14–16)

Three nights at The Aphrodite floating resort, 52 kilometres above the surface of Venus. Gravity: 0.88g — the most Earth-like of any Pelorus Voyages destination.

Day 14 (Arrival) — arrival, wellness orientation, gravity adjustment. Pool and sun deck open. The gravity transition from transit (0.15g) to Venus (0.88g) is the most pronounced single gravity change of the voyage; mild fatigue on arrival is normal. The Science Centre and the pool are recommended for the arrival afternoon.

Day 15 (Primary experience day) — Glass Floor Tour and/or Gondola Descent. Both require advance booking; the gondola holds only 8 passengers. The gondola must begin its ascent no later than 90 minutes before the departure window. Glass Floor Tour final group must exit by 60 minutes before departure. Plan the schedule so both complete with buffer time.

Day 16 (Departure day) — pool and sun deck close 45 minutes before departure. Muster at Docking Pier 1, Resort Deck 2 at 30 minutes before departure — the shortest muster window in the itinerary.

9. Venus to Earth Return (Days 17–18)

The return transit from Venus to Earth takes 2 days — the shortest segment of the voyage. The return arc is not the same as the outbound route; it is separately optimised for the current orbital geometry.

This is typically the most relaxed stretch of the IPS. The excursion schedule is complete, the major experiences are behind you, and the social connections formed during 16 days together are at their strongest. The bar hosts informal programming during the return. The first morning of Earth gravity after 18 days in reduced gravity is noticed by almost every passenger — standing up feels different.

10. Premium Add-Ons

The following are restricted or separately purchased on the IPS:

Add-on	Cabin eligibility	Age limit	Special requirement
Olympus Mons Caldera Rim hike	Pathfinder only	18+	Olympus Fitness Test at MC-1, min. 48 hrs before hike
Venus Gondola Descent	All classes	16+	Separate cardiovascular clearance; book before departure

11. IPS Planning Checklist

Before booking: - [ ] Schedule physician medical clearance appointment (clearance valid 90 days — time it so it covers departure date) - [ ] If booking Gondola Descent: schedule gondola cardiovascular clearance at same physician visit - [ ] If Pathfinder: note Olympus Fitness Test logistics at MC-1

After booking: - [ ] Book Glass Floor Tour immediately (fills 3 weeks out in peak season) - [ ] Book Gondola Descent (8 passengers max; Pathfinder loyalty tier members get a 48-hour priority window) - [ ] Register dietary requirements and all medications in account portal - [ ] Complete online training programme (14 days before departure deadline)

Pre-departure: - [ ] Pre-departure health check at Terminal 7, Medical Suite B, within 72 hours of departure window - [ ] Arrive at terminal 4 hours before departure window (5 hours if mobility assistance needed) - [ ] Baggage drop complete 4 hours before departure window - [ ] Gate 22 check-in: 3 hours before departure window opening

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