



Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, California

Voyager 1-47 P-21182 March 3, 1979

This photo of Jupiter was taken by Voyager 1 on March 1, 1979, at a distance of 5 million kilometers (3 million miles). The photo shows Jupiter's Great Red Spot (upper right) and the turbulent region immediately to the west. At the middle right of the frame is one of several white ovals seen on Jupiter from Earth. The detail in every structure here is far better than has ever been seen from any telescopic observations. The Red Spot and the white oval both reveal intricate and involved structure. The smallest details that can be seen in this photo are about 95 kilometers (55 miles) across. JPL manages and controls the Voyager Project for NASA's Office of Space Science.

The Voyager Project

Two unmanned spacecraft, Voyagers 1 and 2, are now on their way to study our giant outer planets, Jupiter and Saturn, and 11 of their major satellites, several of which are larger than our own Moon.

The Voyager Project was assigned to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory as part of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration program of planetary exploration. JPL communicates with the spacecraft through a worldwide network of deep space tracking stations located in California, Australia, and Spain.

Voyager 2 was launched from Florida on August 20, 1977; Voyager 1, which flies a faster trajectory to reach the planets first, was launched on September 5, 1977.

At Jupiter, Voyager 1 made its closest approach on March 5, 1979. Voyager 2, whose more cautious trajectory will avoid much of Jupiter's intense radiation, will make its closest approach on July 9, 1979. Satellites being studied are Amalthea, Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto. Jupiter's Great Red Spot will be photographed and studied intensively by both spacecraft.