Retrograde Periods of Mars

1941 - 2041

This table shows the start and end dates of retrograde motion for Mars for 100 years. Also included are the number of days Mars is retrograde about every two years.

The date and location of the Mars-Sun opposition is listed as it references not only the center point of the Mars retrograde period but also the start date of the Mars synodic cycle.

Mars Rx Start Date	Rx Deg/Sign	Mars Rx End Date	Rx Deg/Sign	Retrograde Time Period	Date of Mars-Sun Opposition	Degree/Sign of Mars-Sun Opposition
Sep 6 1941	23°42’ Ari	Nov 10 1941	11°04’ Ari	66 Days	Oct 10 1941	16°49’ Rx Lib
Oct 27 1943	22°13’ Gem	Jan 9 1944	04°51’ Gem	75 Days	Dec 5 1943	12°45’ Rx Gem
Dec 4 1945	03°13’ Leo	Feb 21 1946	14°06’ Can	80 Days	Jan 13 1946	23°15’ Rx Can
Jan 8 1948	07°36’ Vir	Mar 29 1948	18°06’ Leo	82 Days	Feb 17 1948	27°55’ Rx Leo
Feb 11 1950	11°02’ Lib	May 3 1950	22°00’ Vir	82 Days	Mar 22 1950	02°01’ Rx Lib
Mar 25 1952	18°28’ Sco	Jun 9 1952	01°09’ Sco	77 Days	Apr 30 1952	10°37’ Rx Sco
May 23 1954	08°31’ Cap	Jul 29 1954	25°35’ Sag	68 Days	Jun 24 1954	02°38’ Rx Cap
Aug 10 1956	23°39’ Pis	Oct 10 1956	13°09’ Pis	62 Days	Sep 10 1956	18°08’ Rx Pis
Oct 10 1958	02°32’ Gem	Dec 19 1958	16°34’ Tau	71 Days	Nov 16 1958	23°44’ Rx Tau
Nov 20 1960	18°39’ Can	Feb 5 1961	29°59’ Gem	78 Days	Dec 30 1960	08°44’ Rx Can
Dec 25 1962	24°37’ Leo	Mar 16 1963	05°20’ Leo	82 Days	Feb 4 1963	14°57’ Rx Gem
Jan 28 1965	28°02’ Vir	Apr 19 1965	08°43’ Vir	82 Days	Mar 9 1965	18°43’ Rx Vir
Mar 8 1967	03°11’ Sco	May 26 1967	14°59’ Lib	80 Days	Apr 15 1967	24°48’ Rx Lib
Apr 27 1969	16°45’ Sag	Jul 7 1969	01°41’ Sag	72 Days	May 31 1969	09°59’ Rx Sag
Jul 10 1971	21°57’ Aqu	Sep 9 1971	11°53’ Sag	62 Days	Aug 9 1971	17°00’ Rx Aqu
Sep 19 1973	09°16’ Tau	Nov 25 1973	25°18’ Ari	68 Days	Oct 24 1973	01°34’ Rx Tau
Nov 6 1975	02°39’ Can	Jan 20 1976	14°43’ Gem	76 Days	Dec 15 1975	22°58’ Rx Gem
Dec 12 1977	11°33’ Leo	Mar 2 1978	22°16’ Can	81 Days	Jan 21 1978	01°36’ Rx Leo
Jan 15 1980	15°20’ Vir	Apr 6 1980	25°52’ Leo	83 Days	Feb 24 1980	05°46’ Rx Vir
Feb 20 1982	19°10’ Lib	May 11 1982	00°22’ Lib	81 Days	Mar 31 1982	10°22’ Rx Lib
Apr 5 1984	28°20’ Sco	Jun 19 1984	11°41’ Sco	76 Days	May 11 1984	20°50’ Rx Sco
Jun 8 1986	23°06’ Cap	Aug 12 1986	11°25’ Cap	66 Days	Jul 9 1986	17°40’ Rx Cap
Aug 26 1988	11°27’ Ari	Oct 27 1988	29°52’ Pis	63 Days	Sep 27 1988	05°13’ Rx Ari
Oct 20 1990	14°33’ Gem	Jan 1 1991	27°45’ Tau	74 Days	Nov 27 1990	05°20’ Rx Gem
Nov 28 1992	27°37’ Can	Feb 14 1993	08°40’ Can	79 Days	Jan 7 1993	17°39’ Rx Can
Jan 2 1995	02°40’ Vir	Mar 24 1995	13°09’ Leo	82 Days	Feb 11 1995	22°54’ Rx Leo
Feb 5 1997	05°55’ Lib	Apr 27 1997	16°44’ Vir	82 Days	Mar 16 1997	26°46’ Rx Vir
Mar 18 1999	12°12’ Sco	Jun 3 1999	05°55’ Lib	78 Days	Apr 24 1999	04°05’ Rx Sco

Mars Rx Start Date	Rx Deg/Sign	Mars Rx End Date	Rx Deg/Sign	Retrograde Time Period	Date of Mars-Sun Opposition	Degree/Sign of Mars-Sun Opposition
May 11 2001	29°02' Sag	Jul 19 2001	15°06' Sag	70 Days	Jun 13 2001	22°45' Rx Sag
Jul 29 2003	10°08' Pis	Sep 27 2003	00°07' Pis	61 Days	Aug 28 2003	05°01' Rx Pis
Oct 1 2005	23°22' Tau	Dec 9 2005	08°14' Tau	66 Days	Nov 6 2005	15°00' Rx Tau
Nov 15 2007	12°27' Can	Jan 30 2008	24°04' Gem	77 Days	Dec 24 2007	02°36' Rx Can
Dec 20 2009	14°41' Leo	Mar 10 2010	00°17' Leo	81 Days	Jan 29 2010	09°47' Rx Leo
Jan 23 2012	23°05' Vir	Apr 13 2012	03°40' Leo	82 Days	Mar 3 2012	13°39' Rx Vir
Mar 1 2014	27°31' Lib	May 19 2014	09°01' Lib	80 Days	Apr 8 2014	18°56' Rx Lib
Apr 17 2016	08°54' Sag	Jun 29 2016	23°03' Sco	74 Days	May 22 2016	01°47' Rx Sag
Jun 26 2018	09°13' Aqu	Aug 27 2018	28°36' Cap	63 Days	Jul 26 2018	04°08' Rx Aqu
Sep 9 2020	28°08' Ari	Nov 13 2020	15°13' Pis	66 Days	Oct 13 2020	21°04' Rx Ari
Oct 30 2022	25°36' Gem	Jan 12 2023	08°07' Gem	75 Days	Dec 7 2022	16°15' Rx Gem
Dec 6 2024	06°10' Leo	Feb 23 2025	17°00' Can	80 Days	Jan 15 2025	26°12' Rx Can
Jan 10 2027	10°25' Vir	Apr 1 2027	20°55' Leo	82 Days	Feb 19 2027	00°46' Rx Vir
Feb 14 2029	13°55' Lib	May 5 2029	24°55' Vir	81 Days	Mar 25 2029	04°57' Rx Lib
Mar 28 2031	21°38' Sco	Jun 13 2031	04°26' Sco	78 Days	May 4 2031	13°50' Rx Sco
May 26 2033	12°30' Cap	Aug 1 2033	29°47' Sag	68 Days	Jun 27 2033	06°41' Rx Cap
Aug 15 2035	28°26' Pis	Oct 15 2035	17°45' Pis	62 Days	Sep 15 2035	22°48' Rx Pis
Oct 12 2037	06°15' Gem	Dec 22 2037	20°07' Tau	72 Days	Nov 19 2037	27°22' Rx Tau
Nov 23 2039	21°45' Can	Feb 9 2040	27°39' Leo	79 Days	Jan 2 2040	11°49' Rx Can
Dec 27 2041	27°39' Leo	Mar 18 2042	08°10' Leo	82 Days	Feb 6 2042	17°49' Rx Leo

Mars spends anywhere from 61 to 83 days or 72.5 days on average in retrograde direction during its average of 780-day synodic cycle (from Mars-Sun opposition to Mars-Sun opposition).

That is only 9.3% of its entire cycle in retrograde, which makes it very rare when compared to Mercury and all of the planets, except for Venus. Neptune and Pluto spend the most days of any planet in retrograde.

Mars is at its brightest in the sky when it is retrograde. This is due to Mars being at its closest to Earth during the time period. This is the period when Earth is catching up or has caught up to Mars in its orbit around the Sun. *The shorter the retrograde period, the brighter Mars is.*

When any planet orbiting outside of Earth is retrograde, including Mars, it is near, at, or just passed opposition with the Sun in the sky.