

Planetary Transit Speeds

Sun

The Sun takes approximately one day (24 hours) to transit one degree of the zodiac. Because the Sun completes a full 360° circle in roughly 365 days, its daily movement is consistent at roughly one degree per day.

Key Aspects of Solar Transit:

- Duration: 1 Degree (approx) 1 Day.
- Sign Movement: The Sun spends about 30 days in each zodiac sign, covering all 30° of a sign in that time.

Moon

The Moon takes approximately 2 hours to 2 hours and 30 minutes to transit one degree of the zodiac. As the fastest-moving body, it travels through all 12 signs in about 28 days, moving roughly 13–14 degrees per day.

- Average Speed: ~2.5 hours per degree.
- Daily Movement: ~13.2 degrees per 24 hours.
- Sign Transit: Moves through one zodiac sign (30 degrees) in about 2.5 days.

Mercury

Mercury typically transits one degree in approximately 0.5 to 1 day (roughly 12 to 24 hours) when moving at its average speed, as it covers about 2° per day. However, this speed varies; during retrograde periods or when slowing down to change direction, Mercury can stay on the same degree for several days.

- Average Motion: Approximately 1° to 2° per day, though it can move faster or slower.
- Sign Duration: Mercury stays in one zodiac sign for roughly 14 to 30 days.
- Retrograde Influence: Because Mercury goes retrograde three times a year, it can, significantly slowing its movement through the zodiac.
- Mercury goes into retrograde three to four times a year, spending up to 60 days in a single sign, with each period lasting approximately three weeks. Because Mercury orbits the sun faster than Earth (an 88-day orbit), this optical illusion, where the planet appears to move backward, occurs frequently.

Venus

Venus typically takes roughly 16 to 24 hours to transit one degree of the zodiac. While Venus generally stays in a sign for 23 days to 2 months, its average speed is approximately $1^{\circ} 12'$ per day, though this slows significantly during retrograde periods.

- Average Speed: Venus moves at a pace of roughly 1 degree, 12 minutes per day ($1^{\circ} 12'$).
- Speed Variations: Venus can move faster when direct and slower or backward when retrograde.
- Sign Duration: Venus spends about 23 days to 2 months in each zodiac sign.
- Retrograde Effect: During retrograde, Venus can appear to stand still or move backward over a degree for several days, extending the transit duration.
- Venus completes a full trip through all 12 zodiac signs in about 225 days to 11 months.
- Venus retrogrades roughly every 18 months (about 1.5 years) for a duration of approximately 40 to 42 days. While these retrogrades occur regularly, they follow a predictable 8-year cycle, where Venus returns to retrograde in the same zodiac signs and similar degrees, such as 2017 and 2025 in Aries/Pisces.

Mars

Mars typically takes just under one day (approximately 31 minutes and 27 seconds to about 1 hour) to transit one degree. On average, Mars moves roughly 0.52° to 1° per day, though this speed varies depending on whether it is moving direct or retrograde.

- Average Speed: Mars moves slightly less than 1 degree ($0^{\circ} 33'28''$) daily.
- Sign Duration: Mars stays in each zodiac sign for approximately 1.5 to 2 months.
- Mars goes into retrograde approximately every two years (or every 26 months). When it happens, the retrograde period lasts for about two to two-and-a-half months (roughly 58–81 days).

Jupiter

Jupiter takes approximately 12 to 13 days to transit one degree (1°) of the zodiac. Because Jupiter completes a full 360° circle roughly every 12 years (spending about 1 year per sign), its average speed is about 1° per 12-day period.

Key details about Jupiter's transit:

- Speed: On average, it moves at a pace of $0^{\circ} 04' 59''$ per day (4 arcminutes and 59 arcseconds).
- Sign Duration: Jupiter stays in each zodiac sign for approximately 13 months.
- Jupiter retrogrades approximately once every 13 months, with each retrograde period lasting for about four months. When Jupiter is retrograde, it moves slower and can take longer to cover a single degree.

Note: While some sources mention 12 days, the exact daily movement is just under 5 arcminutes, confirming that it takes just over 12 days to complete a full degree.

Saturn

Saturn takes approximately 1 month to transit one degree of the zodiac. Because Saturn takes roughly 2.5 years to move through a single 30-degree sign, it moves at a slow, deliberate pace of about 1 degree every 25 to 30 days.

Key Details:

- **Return Duration:** A full Saturn return, where it returns to the exact degree of your natal Saturn, takes about 3 years, as it moves slowly through that area.
- Saturn takes approximately 29.5 Earth years to complete one full revolution (orbit) around the Sun and transit through all twelve signs of the zodiac. It moves slowly, staying in each astrological sign for roughly 2.5 years.
- Saturn goes retrograde once every year, with the backward motion lasting for approximately 4 to 4.5 months. These annual retrogrades are a regular occurrence, covering about 38% of the time, meaning it often crosses the same degree three times (forward, backward, forward), lasting longer over a specific point.

Uranus

It takes Uranus approximately 7 to 8 months to transit one degree in the zodiac. Because Uranus takes about 84 years to complete a full 360-degree journey around the zodiac, its movement is very slow, spending 7–8 years in each sign.

Key Details on Uranus Transits:

- **Slow Movement:** Uranus takes 84 Earth years to complete one full revolution around the zodiac.
- Uranus retrograde occurs once every year and lasts for approximately five months (about 150–155 days). Because it stations retrograde (appears to move backward) every year, it often moves back and forth over the same degree, spending 1-2 years impacting a specific planet or angle in a chart.

Note: As of April 2026, Uranus is beginning its transit through Gemini, which will last until 2033.

Neptune

Neptune takes approximately 3 to 4 months to transit one degree in the zodiac. Because it orbits the sun slowly, taking about 165 years to complete a full zodiac cycle, it moves at a pace of roughly 1° to 2° per year, spending around 14 years in each zodiac sign.

Key details:

- **Average Speed:** ~3–4 months per degree.
- **Sign Duration:** Roughly 14 years per sign.
- Neptune goes retrograde once a year, with each retrograde period lasting for approximately five months. Neptune's slow movement means it often spends several months moving over the same degree due to its retrograde cycle, often stationing and retracing its steps.

Pluto

Pluto takes approximately 1 to 2 years to transit one degree in the zodiac, averaging about 1.5 years because of its slow speed and frequent retrograde periods. Because Pluto moves only about 1–2 degrees per year, its transits are long-term, lasting roughly 3–5 years to clear a 2-degree natal aspect.

Key Aspects of Pluto Transits:

- Average Speed: Moves at approximately 0.0044° per day, or roughly 1–2 degrees per year.
- Total Cycle: Completes a full orbit in about 248 years.
- Sign Duration: Spends 12 to 32 years in each zodiac sign.
- Pluto goes retrograde once a year for approximately five to six months. This annual backspin is a regular, long-lasting transit, typically occurring between April and October, and it often moves back and forth over the same degree

Chiron

Chiron takes an average of 2 to 3 months to transit one degree (1°) in the zodiac, though this speed is highly irregular. Because Chiron has a wildly elliptical 49–51 year orbit, it moves much faster (closer to 1.5 months per degree) through Libra/Virgo and lingers significantly longer (over 4 months per degree) in Aries/Pisces.

Key Takeaways on Chiron's Speed:

- Irregular Orbit: Chiron spends between 1.5 and 9 years in each sign, making its transit speed erratic.
- Fastest Move: It can move through signs like Libra quickly (1.5–2 years).
- Slowest Move: It lingers in signs like Aries and Pisces, where it can spend up to 8–9 years, moving very slowly through each degree.
- Retrogrades: Because Chiron goes retrograde roughly once a year, it may revisit the same degrees multiple times, stalling its progress for months.

For a concrete example, Chiron is currently in Aries (2018-2027), taking over 8 years to cross roughly 30°, which averages much longer than 2 months per degree..

*** Lunar Nodes**

Lunar nodes are the two points where the Moon's orbit intersects the Earth's orbit around the Sun (the ecliptic). They are not physical objects but calculated mathematical points that define where eclipses occur.

The Nodes: The Moon's path is tilted roughly 5 degrees relative to the Earth's path around the Sun. The intersection points are the nodes.

North Node (Ascending): Where the Moon crosses from the southern hemisphere to the northern hemisphere.

South Node (Descending): Where the Moon crosses from the northern hemisphere to the southern hemisphere.

Eclipses: Eclipses happen when a new or full moon occurs near these nodes.

Motion: The nodes move in a retrograde (backward) direction through the zodiac, taking about 18.5 years to complete a full cycle.