

2018, Mars at Opposition vs. Closest Approach to Earth

Prepared by Joe Stieber using the United States Naval Observatory's MICA Software

Opposition, au 0.386155270 July 27, 2018, 05:13 UT (1:13 am EDT)
 Closest, au 0.384962922 July 31, 2018, 07:49 to 07:52 UT (3:49 to 3:52 am EDT)
 Delta, au 0.001192348

km/au 149,597,871 RASC 2018 Handbook
 Opposition, km 57,768,006
 Closest, km 57,589,633
 Delta, km 178,373

km/mi 1.609344 RASC 2018 Handbook
 Opposition, mi 35,895,375
 Closest, mi 35,784,539
 Delta, mi 110,836

For a location of 40°N-75°W (EDT)

Mars on...	Night of:	July 7-8	July 26-27	July 30-31
	Rise:	10:08 pm	8:45 pm	8:26 pm
	Transit, alt:	02:45 am, 26.7°	1:13 am, 24.7°	0:53 am, 24.3°
	Set:	07:22 am	5:41 am	5:20 am
At Transit...	Magnitude:*	-2.4	-2.8	-2.8
	Diameter, Eq:	22.18"	24.25"	24.33"
	Diameter, Pol:	22.06"	24.12"	24.19"

* As of July 11, 2018, there are reports of an increase in brightness by as much as -0.2 magnitude due to Mars' current global dust storm.

[See Bob King's online article at Sky & Telescope.](#)

The stated magnitudes are the standard, non-dust-storm values.