

Moons of the Solar System

The solar system contains over 150 moons, some of which might be good places to find life.



These are the four largest moons of Jupiter. Shown from left to right in order of increasing distance from Jupiter: Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto.

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Many of the spectacular images we have of moons in the solar system are taken by NASA spacecraft like Juno.

The moons in our solar system, which include icy and rocky worlds, are exciting places to explore in the quest to find life. Earth's Moon has a lot of company in the solar system. Over 150 moons are known to exist—planets like Jupiter and Saturn have more than 50 moons each—and some might be good places to find life. A NASA mission is in development to visit Europa, a moon of Jupiter. This mission will help scientists better understand the ocean of liquid water that's likely beneath Europa's surface. Because life on Earth originated in the ocean, scientists are excited to

explore Europa's hidden ocean. Other moons in the solar system, like Saturn's moons Titan and Enceladus, may also be good places to look for life. Although very different from these possible ocean worlds, Earth's Moon may have its own stash of frozen water near its southern pole.