



Milky Way Galaxy (sometimes simply called the Galaxy), large spiral system of about several hundred billion stars, one of which is the Sun. It takes its name from the Milky Way, the irregular luminous band of stars and gas clouds ???



4. Meet Me in the Milky Way. Our solar system is in one of the Milky Way galaxy's spiral arms called the Orion Spur. 5. A Long Way Around. Our solar system takes about 230 million years to orbit the galactic center. 6. Spiraling Through Space. The Milky Way is a barred spiral galaxy.

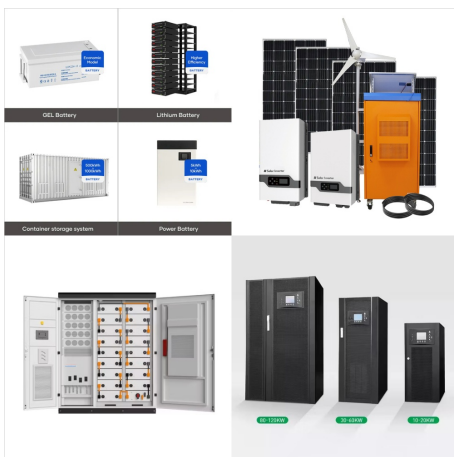


The Milky Way Galaxy is organized into spiral arms of giant stars that illuminate interstellar gas and dust. The Sun is in a finger called the Orion Spur. Overlaid is a graphic of galactic longitude in relation to our Sun. Credit: NASA/Adler/U. Chicago/Wesleyan/JPL-Caltech. Graphic view of our Milky Way Galaxy.

WHERE IS OUR SOLAR SYSTEM IN THE MILKY WAY



The Milky Way [c] is the galaxy that includes the Solar System, with the name describing the galaxy's appearance from Earth: a hazy band of light seen in the night sky formed from stars that cannot be individually distinguished by the naked eye.



The disk has three regions: the nucleus at the center, the bulge around the nucleus extending slightly above and below the disk's plane and the spiral arms radiating outward. Our solar system is located in one of these arms, specifically the Orion Arm. Other arms include the Perseus Arm, Sagittarius Arm and Scutum-Centaurus Arm.



Our Sun is in a small, partial arm of the Milky Way called the Orion Arm, or Orion Spur, between the Sagittarius and Perseus arms. Our solar system orbits the center of the galaxy at about 515,000 mph (828,000 kph). It takes about 230 million years ???

WHERE IS OUR SOLAR SYSTEM IN THE MILKY WAY



Our Sun is located nearly 27,000 light-years from the Milky Way's nucleus, or about halfway between its center and the edge. Our Solar System is placed between two main arms ??? Scutum-Centaurus and Perseus, within the ???



The planetary system we call home is located in an outer spiral arm of the Milky Way galaxy. Our solar system consists of our star, the Sun, and everything bound to it by gravity ??? the planets Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune; dwarf planets such as Pluto; dozens of moons; and millions of asteroids, comets, and



Our Sun lies near a small, partial arm called the Orion Arm, or Orion Spur, located between the Sagittarius and Perseus arms. Like early explorers mapping the continents of our globe, astronomers are busy charting the spiral structure of our galaxy, the Milky Way.