



Close Encounters: Mars at Opposition

This illustration shows the relative positions of Earth and Mars at the last seven oppositions, when the Sun and Mars are on exact opposite sides of Earth. The images of Mars show the planet's apparent relative size at each opposition, as viewed by the Earth-orbiting *Hubble Space Telescope*. Orbits of the inner planets are also shown to scale.

Illustration credit: Z. Levay (STScI)