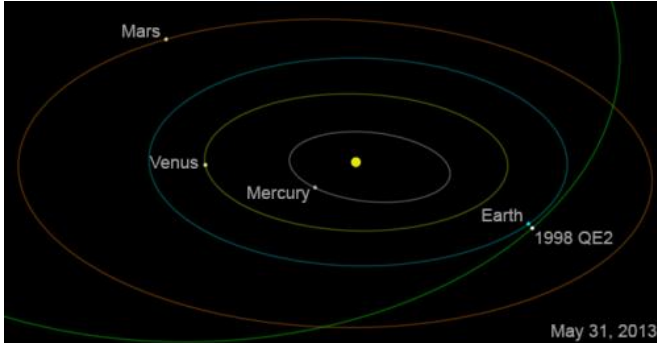


# QE2 asteroid to fly by Earth from safe distance

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Asteroid 1998 QE2 will get no closer than about 3.6 million miles at time of closest approach on May 31 at 1:59 p.m. Pacific (4:59 p.m. Eastern). Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

An asteroid more than 1½ miles long will zoom past Earth this week from a far-off distance.

The big rock called Asteroid 1998 QE2 will make its closest approach Friday. It will keep a safe distance of 3.6 million miles, or 15 times the distance between Earth and the moon. You won't be able to see it without a powerful [telescope](#).

It's believed to be about 1.7 miles long, or about nine times the length of the Queen Elizabeth 2 cruise ship. But that has nothing to do with its name. The letters and number in the name represent the timing and sequence of the asteroid's [discovery](#) in 1998.

Scientists will use large radar telescopes to study its shape, rotation and [surface features](#).

**More information:** NASA:

[www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/asteroid20130515.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/asteroid20130515.html)

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