





S1 - 11. PIC DU MIDI, PLANETARY METEOROLOGY

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Clouds, wind and rain... Skies of changing colours, twilight where the Sun meets the Moon...
In the solar system, seven out of eight planets are surrounded by an atmosphere that creates spectacular weather conditions - dust storms on Mars, rains of sulphuric acid on Venus, hurricanes on Saturn and Jupiter with winds of 500 km / hour. On Earth, nestled between a burning hot Venus and an icy planet Mars, weather conditions are much more temperate: our planet has known a much different fate from that of its neighbours thanks to the miracle of its protective atmospheric envelope.
Serge Brunier has reached the summit of the Pic du Midi at an altitude of 2870 metres. The mountain top looks like an island lost in the skies. For astronomers around the world the Pic du Midi is a legend - the first observation station built at high altitude! Researchers have come here for nearly 140 years to study the sky, the sun and the planets.
Today, this exceptional site allows astronomers to work on planetary meteorology to explain atmospheric phenomena of the planets in our solar system. So, will there will be a storm on Jupiter tonight?
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