

HUMANS ON MARS WILL HAVE TO LIVE ACCORDING TO BOTH MARTIAN & EARTH TIMES

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The different lengths of day and year on Mars will impose the choice of specific references for the people who will live on this planet. However for a very long time no Martian will live a Martian-only life. The necessity for them to keep tight links with Mankind on Earth will also impose to share their time references.

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The different lengths of day and year on Mars will impose the choice of specific time references for the people who will live on this planet. However for a very long time no Martians will live a Martian-only life. The necessity for them to keep tight links with Mankind on Earth and use Earth-made products will also impose to share their time references. The only realist solution is therefore to keep a dual-time reference system for the long-term (multiples of days, weeks, months, within a year), as well as the short term (divisions of the day).

For the short term, people can wear a watch with two screens, but they will keep the terrestrial time for their machines and interactions with Earth (no need for a small hand showing Martian seconds!).

Specifics of Martian Time will also have to be dealt with for the long-term reference system.

Seasons will have a special importance on account of the eccentricity of the orbit (which implies major differences between those of the Southern hemisphere versus those of the Northern hemisphere). They will have to be divided into months in order to allow an easy follow-up and the choice for these will be between 12 months with twice as many days as on Earth or 24 months with about the same number of days as on Earth (I personally opt for the first solution). I presume that the week will remain a seven day period as this is a custom coming from the night of human times and that there is no Martian reason to change it.

A choice will have to be made for the starting date of the Martian calendar but that will not imply that the Earth calendar should be discarded and not used, for biologic as well as historic / cultural needs.

Soon specific events related to the constraints of living on Mars will be celebrated or paid a special attention to (arrival or departure dates of Space vessels, hidden days of the Earth / Sun conjunction period).

References:

“Technical Notes on Mars Solar Time as Adopted by the Mars24 Sunclock” by Dr Michael Allison (Mars24) NASA, Goddard Institute for Space Studies; <https://www.giss.nasa.gov/tools/mars24/help/notes.html>

Dual-time clock realized for Baselworld 2016 by Vaucher Manufacture Fleurier:



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