

Mariner 8 and 9 were both scheduled to visit Mars and explore its surface. Mariner 8 did not survive the launch, but Mariner 9 achieved orbit in 1971. When Mariner 9 neared Mars there was a giant dust storm which eventually cleared up. Scientists say it was probably an active volcano.

Mariner 10 was launched to Venus. After passing Venus and taking photographs, it went on to Mercury. It passed by Mercury three times and the photos it took were similar to photos taken of the Moon.