



Exosphere (Above 400 km)
Phone calls and television pictures are relayed by way of communications satellites that orbit Earth in the exosphere.

500 km

400 km

300 km

Ionosphere (80 to 400 km)
Ions in the ionosphere reflect radio waves back to Earth. The aurora borealis occurs in the ionosphere.

200 km

Thermosphere (Above 80 km)
The thermosphere extends from 80 km above Earth's surface outward into space. It has no definite outer limit.

Mesosphere (50 to 80 km)
Most meteoroids burn up in the mesosphere, producing meteor trails.

100 km

80 km

Stratosphere (12 to 50 km)
The ozone layer in the stratosphere absorbs ultraviolet radiation.

50 km

Troposphere (0 to 12 km)
Rain, snow, storms, and most clouds occur in the troposphere.

12 km