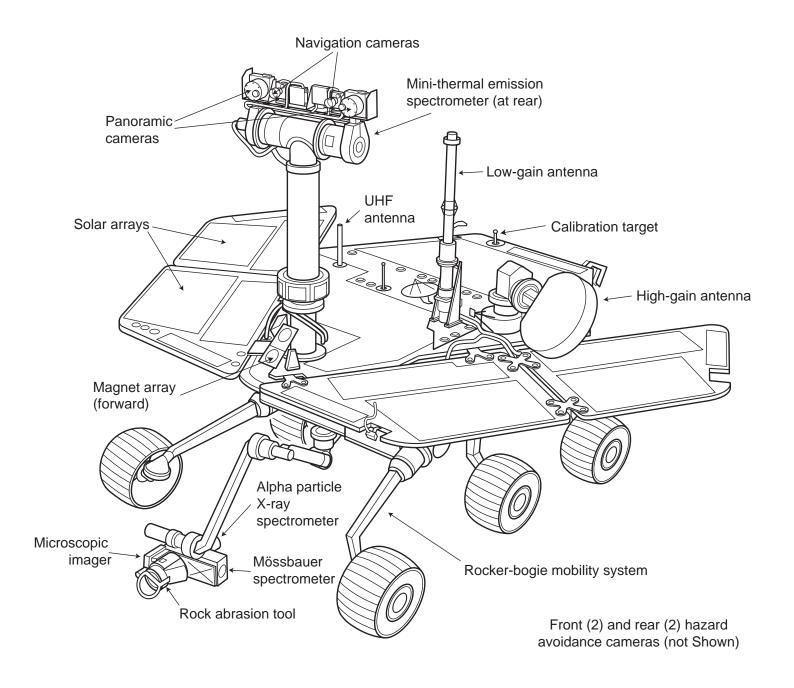




he image on the cover is an artist's concept of one of the two NASA Mars Exploration Rovers, Spirit and Opportunity. Spirit landed on Mars at Gusev Crater January 4, 2004 (UTC), and Opportunity landed on the opposite side of the planet at Eagle Crater on Meridiani Planum January 25, 2004. The rovers were originally planned to operate for 90 Martian days (called sols). They have surprised even their designers with their longevity and accomplishment, as 2009 marks the fifth anniversary of the rovers' successful exploration on the surface of Mars.

Learn more about the mission and its findings at marsrovers.jpl.nasa.gov.

Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech



Notes on calendar format and symbols

A Martian Year: Earth is the third planet from the Sun and Mars is the fourth. Mars travels farther around the Sun in its orbit than Earth does. For this reason, a Mars year is longer than an Earth year. A Mars year is 687 Earth days long, almost two Earth years. And for this reason, this one-Martian-year



February 1, 2009

calendar covers two Earth years. Each page of this calendar has a diagram showing the relative positions of Earth and Mars at that time in their journeys around the Sun.

A Martian Day: Mars rotates on its axis similarly to Earth, but a little more slowly, so a Mars day is a little longer than an Earth day. The Mars day, which we call a "sol," takes 24 hours, 39-1/2 minutes. The red and blue numbers in the calendar squares indicate how many sols have passed since Spirit (designated "A" and shown in red type) and Opportunity ("B" in blue type) landed on Mars. Those dates were January 4, 2004, for Spirit and January 25, 2004, for Opportunity. For example, on January 1, 2009, the numbers A1777 and B1757 mean that this date marks the 1777th sol that MER-A (technical name for Spirit) has spent on Mars and the 1757th sol for MER-B (Opportunity). You will notice that because a sol is slightly longer than a day, about every 36 days, the calendar skips an Earth day in counting the sols for each of the rovers. This way, the days and sols can stay synchronized on the calendar.

Day of Year: The number in the top right corner of each calendar square is the consecutive day of year (DOY) number, commonly used in space mission operations as a shorthand way of giving the date.

Martian seasons: The L_S number on the first day of each month is the Mars solar longitude. Imagine looking down on the solar system from a position "above" the Sun's north pole. If you draw a line from the Sun to Mars, the position of Mars at its northern vernal equinox is assigned 0° solar longitude. As Mars travels around the Sun through 360°, it experiences seasons just as Earth does.

- Northern Spring/Southern Autumn start at 0°
- Northern Summer/Southern Winter start at 90°
- Northern Autumn/Southern Spring start at 180°
- Northern Winter/Southern Summer begin at 270°

Mission Objective: The objective of the Mars Exploration Rover Mission is to determine the water, climatic, and geologic history of two sites on Mars where evidence has been preserved of past and persistent water activity that may have supported life.

Science Instruments: Spirit and Opportunity have "eyes" (powerful stereoscopic imagers) and an "arm" with powerful instruments attached that can be maneuvered like hands.

The **Panoramic cameras (Pancam)** are the most capable cameras ever sent to the surface of another planet. They sit atop a mast that allows the cameras to rotate in a complete circle. The cameras can also tilt vertically from straight up to straight down. Each of the Pancams has a filter wheel that allows it to make images in only certain wavelengths of light—a capability that allows certain details of the scene to be more easily discerned.

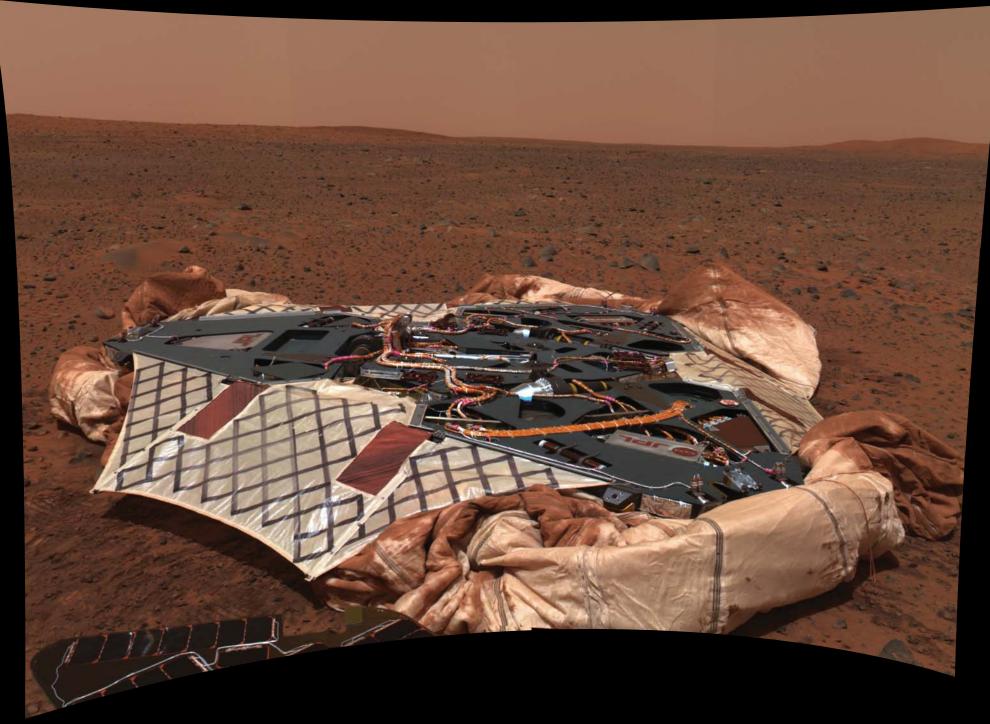
The **Miniature Thermal Emission Spectrometer (Mini-TES)** analyzes infrared light, which is a part of the spectrum that humans cannot see, but we feel as heat. The Mini-TES identifies rock-forming minerals, even some that are coated with dust. It collects data on the heat-holding properties of rocks and soils. It can also point upward and measure the varying temperatures of the Martian atmosphere from the surface up to 10 kilometers (6.2 miles).

The **Rock Abrasion Tool (RAT)**, about the size of a 12-ounce soda can, brushes and grinds rocks to clean away dust and other surface deposits. Once the undersurface is exposed, the rover's spectrometers can find out their composition and search for ancient evidence of water on Mars.

The **Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer** measures the chemical composition of Martian rocks and soil. It works by bombarding the material in question with energetic alpha particles and X-rays from the synthetic radioactive element curium-244. The emitted X-ray energy has a particular spectrum, or fingerprint, which the spectrometer measures to identify the element.

The **Mössbauer Spectrometer** also measures the chemical composition of materials, specializing in different kinds of iron-bearing rocks and soils. Placed directly up against the target material, the spectrometer illuminates it with gamma particles emitted by the radioactive element cobalt-57. The particles interact with the targeted material, and characteristics of the radiation reflected back into the spectrometer reveal the presence, amount and types of iron-bearing minerals.

The **Microscopic Imager**, like the RAT and the spectrometers, is located on the turret or "fist" of the rover arm. It is a combination of microscope optics and a camera that provides detailed images on the small-scale features of Martian rocks and soils. The Microscopic Imager has allowed scientists to characterize the undersurface of rocks. When able to see beneath the outer, weathered coating and layers of dust, scientists can better determine how the rocks formed.



We have arrived!

NASA/JPL/Cornell

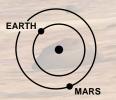
January 2009

February 2009

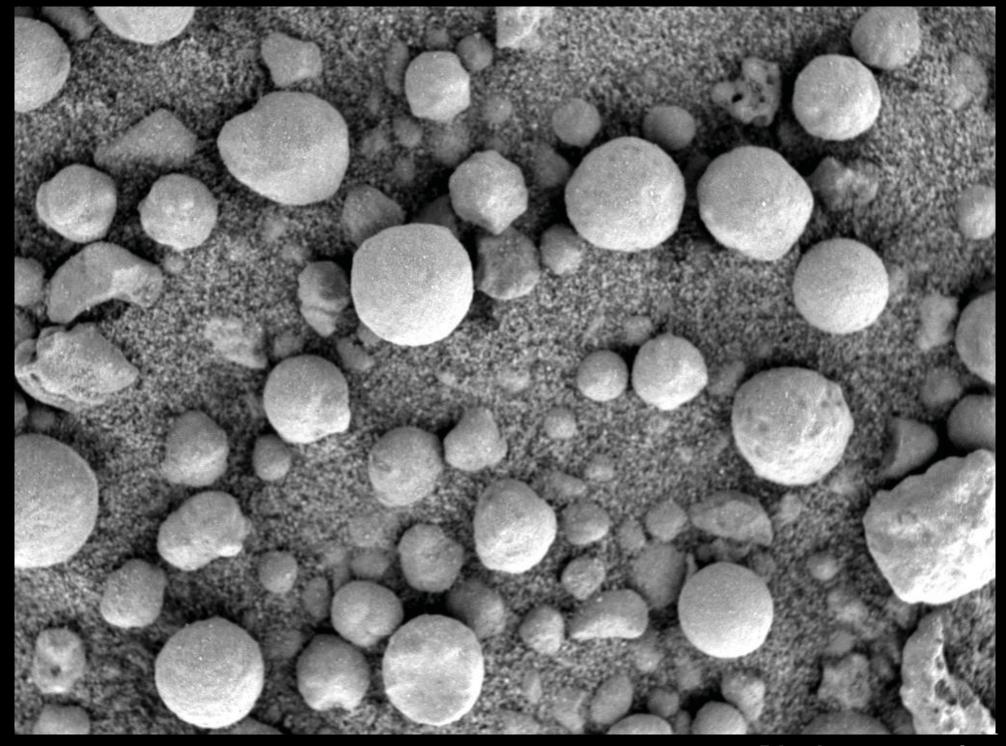
SUNDA	Y	MONE	DAY	TUES	DAY	WEDNE	SDAY	THURS	DAY	FRID	AY	SATI	JRDAY	SUND	AY	MONE	DAY	TUES	DAY	WEDNE	SDAY	THUR	SDAY	FRID	AY	SATUI	RDAY
								1	1	2	2	3	3	1	32	2	33	3	34	4	35	5	36	6	37	7	38
								L _S =183.4° A1777 B1757		A1778 B1758		A1779 B1759		L _S =201.5° A1807 B1787		A1808 B1788		A1809 B1789		A1810 B1790		A1811 B1791		A1812 B1792		A1813 B1793	
4	4	5	5	6	6	7	7	8	8	9	9	10	10	8	39	9	40	10	41	11	42	12	43	13	44	14	45
Spirit's 5th Ear Annivers	th																										
A1780 B1760		A1781		A1782 B1761		A1783 B1762		A1784 B1763		A1785 B1764		A1786 B1765		A1814 B1794		A1815 B1795		A1816 B1796		A1817		A1818 B1797		A1819 B1798		A1820 B1799	
11	11	12	12	13	13	14	14	15	15	16	16	17	17	15	46	16	47	17	48	18	49	19	50	20	51	21	52
A1787 B1766		A1788 B1767		A1789 B1768		A1790 B1769		A1791 B1770		A1792 B1771		A1793 B1772		A1821 B1800		A1822 B1801		A1823 B1802		A1824 B1803		A1825 B1804		A1826 B1805		A1827 B1806	
18	18	19	19	20	20	21	21	22	22	23	23	24	24	22	53	23	54	24	55	25	56	26	57	27	58	28	59
A1794 B1773		A1795 B1774		A1796 B1775		A1797 B1776		A1798 B1777		A1799 B1778		B1779		A1828 B1807		A1829 B1808		A1830 B1809		A1831 B1810		A1832 B1811		A1833 B1812		A1834 B1813	
25		26	26	27	27	28	28	29	29	30	30	31	31	D1007		B1000		51003		BIOIO		DIOTI		DIOIZ		DIOIS	
Opportun 5th Ear Annivers	ity's th							6																			
A1800 B1780		A1801 B1781		A1802 B1782		A1803 B1783		A1804 B1784		A1805 B1785		A1806 B1786			MI.												



After exiting its protective landing system, the Mars rover Spirit turned to capture this spectacular view of its landing site, the floor of Gusev Crater. The lander platform was named the Columbia Memorial Station in honor of the Space Shuttle Columbia and its crew. In the background are the Columbia Hills, about 3 kilometers (2 miles) away. They were among the first destinations of Spirit's long journey. On January 4, 2009, its 5th Earth-year anniversary on Mars, Spirit had logged a total of approximately 7.5 km (4.7 miles). On Opportunity's 5th anniversary, January 25, 2009, it had logged 13.6 km (8.5 miles) on Meridiani Planum on the opposite side of the planet.



February 1, 2009



Blueberry surprise

NASA/JPL/USGS

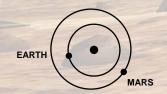
March 2009

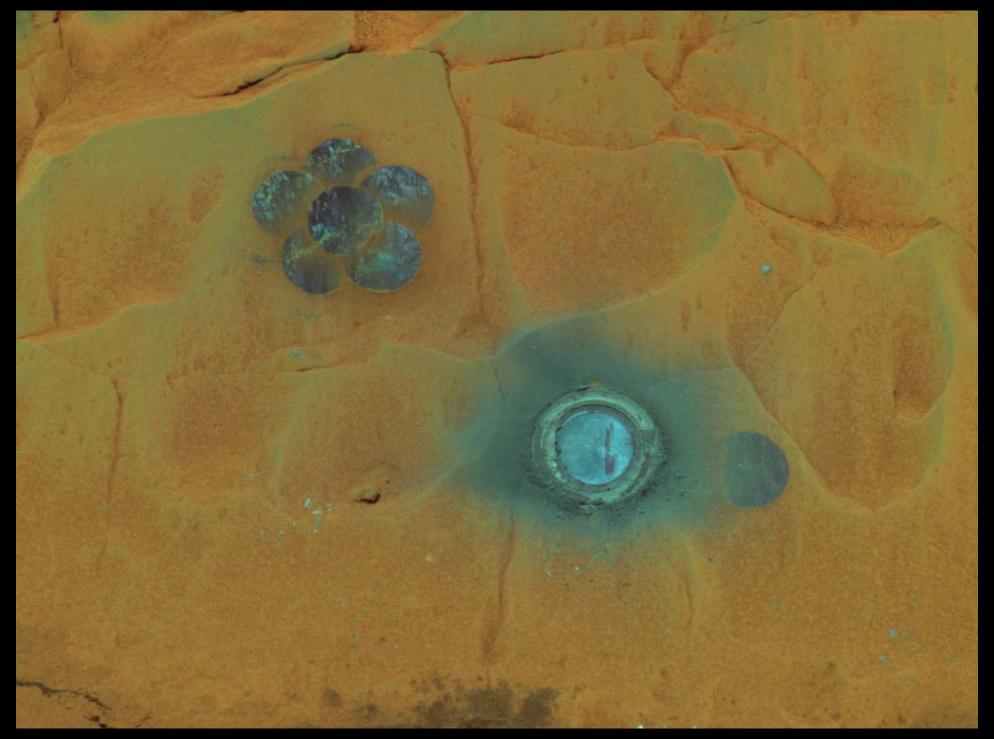
April 2009

SUND	AY	MONE	PAY	TUE	SDAY	WEDNE	SDAY	THUR	SDAY	FRI	DAY	SATUR	DAY	SUND	AY	MONE	DAY	TUESDA	Y V	WEDNES	DAY	THURSI	DAY	FRID	AY	SATU	RDAY
1	60	2	61	3	62	4	63	5	64	6	65	7	66							1	91	2	92	3	93	4	
L _S =218.6° A1835 B1814		B1815		A1836 B1816		A1837 B1817		A1838 B1818		A1839 B1819	18	A1840 B1820								L _S =238.0° A1865 B1844		A1866 B1845		A1867 B1846		A1868 B1847	
8	67	9	68	10	69	11	70	12	71	13	72	14	73	5	95	6	96	7	97	8	98	9	99	10	100	11	101
A1841 B1821		A1842 B1822		A1843 B1823		A1844 B1824		A1845 B1825		A1846 B1826		A1847 B1827		A1869 B1848		A1870 B1849		A1871 B1850		B1851		A1872 B1852		A1873 B1853		A1874 B1854	
15	74	16	75	17	76	18	77		78	20	79	21	80	12	102		103				105	16	106		107		108
A1848		A1849		A1850		A1851		A1852		A1853		A1854		A1875		A1876		A1877		A1878		A1879		A1880		A1881	
B1828 22	81	B1829	82	B1830 24	83	B1831	84	B1832 26	85	B1833	86	28	87	19	109	B1856 20	110	21 1		B1858 22	112	B1859 23	113	B1860 24	114	25	115
														S				Mars Perihelio	n								
A1855 B1834		A1856 B1835		A1857 B1836		A1858 B1837		A1859 B1838		A1860 B1839		A1861 B1840	74.31	A1882 B1862		A1883 B1863		A1884 B1864		A1885 B1865		A1886 B1866		A1887 B1867		A1888 B1868	
29	88	30	89	31	90									26	116	27	117	28	118	29	119	30	120				
A1862 B1841		A1863 B1842	Co.	A1864 B1843										A1889 B1869		A1890		A1891 B1870		A1892 B1871		A1893 B1872					
		1				100	10			ASTON	24	1	-64	Ass													



This image from Opportunity's Microscopic Imager on sol 13 shows round, blueberry-shaped formations in the Martian soil near a part of the rock outcrop at Meridiani Planum called Stone Mountain. The "blueberries" averaged 5 millimeters (about .2 inch) in diameter. Measurements by the spectrometers onboard Opportunity indicated that the berries were composed largely of gray hematite. The presence of this particular mineral form of iron oxide strongly hints that water played a significant role in Mars' past.





Getting under the surface

NASA/JPL-Caltech/Cornell

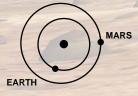
May 2009

June 2009

SUN	DAY	MON	DAY	TUE	SDAY	WEDNE	SDAY	THURS	SDAY	FRIDA	Y	SATUR	RDAY	SUND	AY	MOND	ΑY	TUES	DAY	WEDNE	SDAY	THURS	DAY	FRID	AY	SATU	RDAY
										1	121	2	122			1	152	2	153	3	154	4	155	5	156	6	157
									4	L _S =257.0° A1894 B1873	â	A1895 B1874				L _S =276.6° A1924 B1904		A1925 B1905		A1926		A1927 B1906		A1928 B1907		A1929 B1908	
3	123	4	124	5	125	6	126	7	127	8	128	9	129	7	158	8	159	9	160	10	161	11	162	12	163	13	164
																				Spir launch in 20	ned						
A1896 B1875		A1897 B1876		A1898 B1877		A1899 B1878		A1900 B1879		A1901 B1880		A1902 B1881		A1930 B1909		A1931 B1910		A1932 B1911		A1933 B1912		A1934 B1913		A1935 B1914		A1936 B1915	
10	130	11	131	12	132	13	133	14	134	15	135	16	136	14	165	15	166	16	167	17	168	18	169	19	170	20	171
A1903 B1882		A1904 B1883		A1905 B1884		A1906 B1885		A1907 B1886		A1908 B1887		B1888		A1937 B1916		A1938 B1917		A1939 B1918		A1940 B1919		A1941 B1920		A1942 B1921		A1943 B1922	
17	137	18	138	19	139	20	140	21	141	22	142	23	143	21	172	22	173	23	174	24	175	25	176	26	177	27	178
								South Mai Sumr Solst	rs mer	A Com																	
A1909 B1889		A1910 B1890		A1911 B1891		A1912 B1892		A1913 B1893		A1914 B1894		A1915 B1895		A1944 B1923		B1924		A1945 B1925		A1946 B1926		A1947 B1927		A1948 B1928		A1949 B1929	
144	24 A1916 B1896	25	145	26	146	27	147	28	148	29	149	30	150	28	179	29	180	30	181								
A1923 B1903 31		A1917 B1897	Fig.	A1918 B1898		A1919 B1899		A1920 B1900		A1921 B1901		A1922 B1902		A1950 B1930		A1951 B1931	70	A1952 B1932									

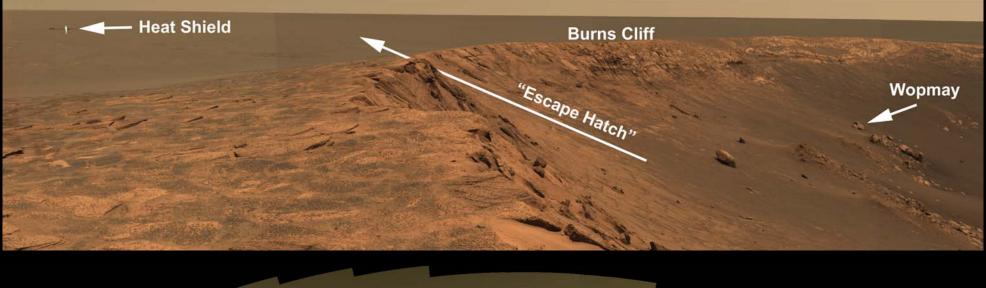


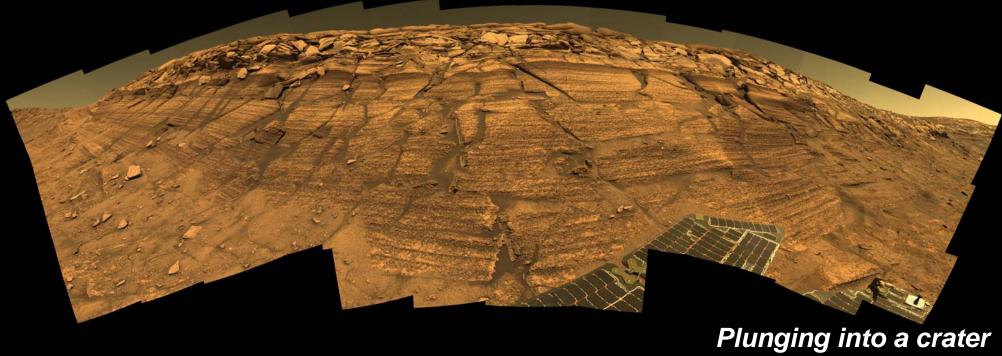
Captured on Sol 86 of Spirit's mission on Mars, this false-color Pancam image of the rock Mazatzal demonstrates the range of operations the Rock Abrasion Tool (RAT) can perform. On the right, a RAT brushing operation removed overlying surface material for the spectrometers and, on the left, a mosaic of brushing operations cleaned a larger area for analysis with the Mini-Thermal Emission Spectrometer. The bright spot in the center highlights the area where the RAT abraded away the rock exterior so that contact spectrometers could analyze the un-weathered interior.



June 1, 2009







NASA/JPL/Cornell

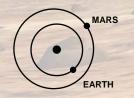
July 2009

August 2009

SUNE	DAY	MONI	DAY	TUES	DAY	WEDNE	SDAY	THUR	SDAY	FRID	AY	SATU	RDAY	SUN	DAY	MONI	DAY	TUES	DAY	WEDNESDA	Y THUR	SDAY	FRID	AY	SATU	RDAY
						1	182	2	183	3	184	4	185												1	213
						L _S =295.0° A1953 B1933	o	A1954 B1934	4	A1955 B1935		A1956 B1936													L _S =313.3 A1983 B1963	0
5	186	6	187	7	188	8	189	9	190	10	191	11	192	2	214	3	215	4	216	5 21	⁷ 6	218	7	219	8	220
						Opport launch in 20	ned																			
A1957 B1937		A1958 B1938		A1959 B1939		A1960 B1940		A1961 B1941		A1962 B1942		A1963		A1984 B1964		A1985 B1965		A1986 B1966		A1987 B1967	A1988 B1968		A1989 B1969		A1990 B1970	
12	193	13	194	14	195	15	196	16	197	17	198	18	199	9	221	10	222	11	223	12 ²²	4 13	225	14	226	15	227
A1964 B1943		A1965 B1944		A1966 B1945		A1967 B1946		A1968 B1947		A1969 B1948	C	A1970 B1949		A1991 B1971		A1992 B1972		A1993 B1973	X.	A1994 B1974	A1995 B1975		A1996 B1976		A1997 B1977	
19	200	20	201	21	202	22	203	23	204	24	205	25	206	16	228	17	229	18	230	19 ²³	20	232	21	233	22	234
A1971 B1950		A1972 B1951		A1973 B1952		A1974 B1953		A1975 B1954		A1976 B1955		A1977 B1956		A1998 B1978		A1999		A2000 B1979		A2001 B1980	A2002 B1981		A2003 B1982		A2004 B1983	
26	207	27	208	28	209	29	210	30	211	31	212			235 A2012	23 A2005 B1984	236 A2013	24 A2006 B1985	25	237	26 Spirit's 3rd Martiar Anniversary	21	239	28	240	29	241
A1978 B1957		A1979 B1958		A1980 B1959		A1981 B1960		B1961		A1982 B1962				B1991 30	242	B1992 31	243	A2007 B1986		A2008 B1987	A2009 B1988		A2010 B1989		A2011 B1990	



In the top panorama (taken sols 117-123), Opportunity overlooks Endurance Crater. Before the rover plunged in, mission planners wanted to make sure it would be able to get out again. The second image shows the planned "escape hatch." The intrepid rover ventured into the crater and began to explore. By the time it rolled up to the base of Burns Cliff at the southeastern portion of the crater and began taking the images in the bottom wide-angle panorama, it was sol 287. Opportunity entered the crater on sol 133 and exited on sol 315.



August 1, 2009



A trail of holes

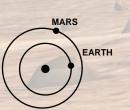
September 2009

October 2009

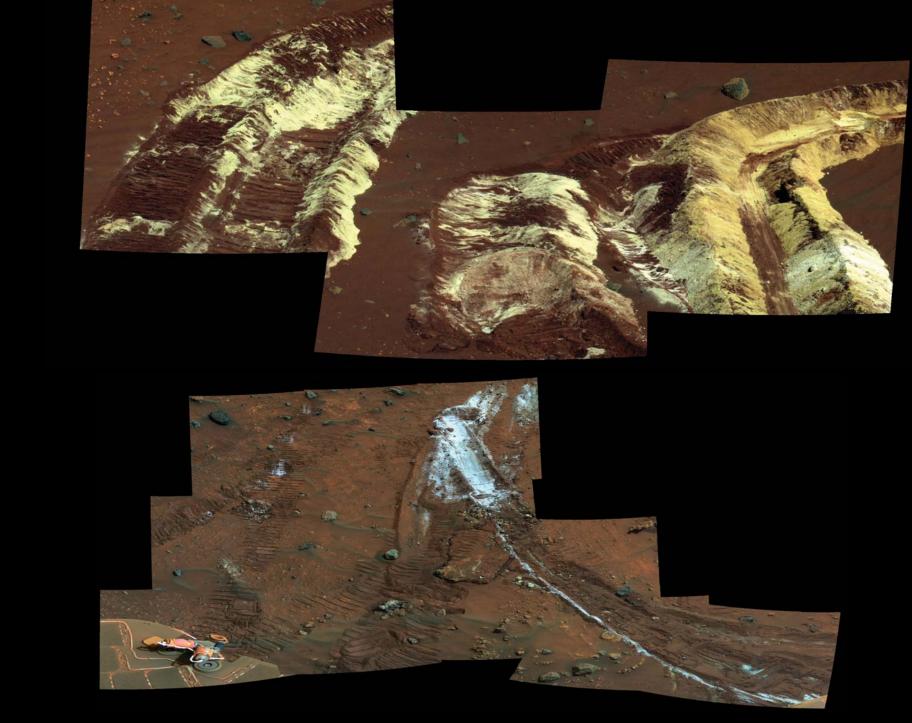
SUNI	DAY	MONI	DAY	TUES	SDAY	WEDNI	ESDAY	THUR	SDAY	FRID	AY	SATU	RDAY	SUNI	DAY	MONDA	Υ	TUESDA	Y V	WEDNESD	AY	THURSD	AY	FRID	AY	SATUR	RDAY
				1	244	2	245	3	246	4	247	5	248									1	274	2	275	3	276
				L _S =330.8 A2014 B1993	30	A2015 B1994		A2016 B1995		A2017 B1996		B1997										L _S =346.8° A2043 B2022		A2044 B2023		A2045 B2024	
6	249	7	250	8	251	9	252	10	253	11	254	12	255	4	277	5	278	6 2	79	7 2	280	8	281	9	282	10	283
A2018 B1998		A2019 B1999		A2020 B2000		A2021 B2001		A2022 B2002		A2023 B2003		A2024 B2004		A2046 B2025		A2047 B2026		A2048 B2027		3 <mark>2049</mark> 32028		A2050 B2029		A2051 B2030		A2052 B2031	
13	256	14	257	15	258	16 Opporti 3rd Ma Annive	unity's artian	17	260	18	261	19	262	11	284	12	285	13 ²	286	14	287	15	288	16	289	17	290
A2025 B2005		A2026 B2006		A2027 B2007		A2028 B2008		A2029 B2009		A2030 B2010		A2031 B2011		A2053 B2032		B2033		A2054 B2034		A2055 32035		A2056 B2036		A2057 B2037		A2058 B2038	
20	263	21	264	22	265	23	266	24	267	25	268	26	269	18	291	19	292	20 2	93	21	294	22	295	23	296	24	297
A2032 B2012		A2033 B2013		A2034 B2014		A2035 B2015		A2036		A2037 B2016		A2038 B2017		A2059 B2039		A2060 B2040		A2061 B2041		A2062 32042		A2063 B2043		A2064 B2044		A2065 B2045	
27	270	28	271	29	272	30	273							25	298	26 Souther Mars Autumn Equino	rn al	27 3	300	28	301	29	302	30	303	31	304
A2039 B2018		A2040 B2019		A2041 B2020		A2042 B2021								A2066 B2046	100	A2067 B2047		A2068 B2048		A2069 32049		A2070 B2050		A2071 B2051		A2072	



This false-color view from Opportunity's Pancam (taken on sol 173) shows the first seven holes that the rover's Rock Abrasion Tool (RAT) dug on the inner slope of Endurance Crater. The false color allows the holes to be much more visible than they would be in a natural-color image. Note that the sky on Mars is not really blue, as it appears in this image. The rover was about 12 meters (about 39 feet) down into the crater, with the Pancam looking back toward the rover's tracks. The tailings around the holes show evidence of fine-grained red hematite similar to what was observed months earlier in Eagle Crater outcrop holes.



October 1, 2009



Pale hints of past water

NASA/JPL-Caltech/Cornell

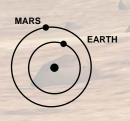
November 2009

December 2009

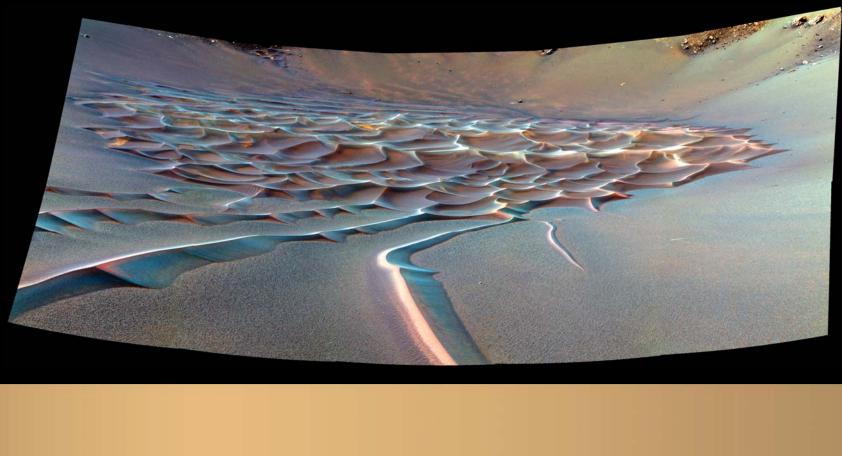
SUNI	PAY	MONE	DAY	TUES	DAY	WEDNE	SDAY	THURS	SDAY	FRIDAY	1	SATUR	DAY	SUND	AY	MOND	AY	TUES	DAY	WEDNES	SDAY	THURS	DAY	FRID	AY	SATU	RDAY
1	305	2	306	3	307	4	308	5	309	6	310	7	311					1	335	2	336	3	337	4	338	5	339
L _S =2.6° A2073 B2052		A2074 B2053		A2075 B2054		A2076 B2055		A2077 B2056		A2078 B2057		A2079 B2058						L _S =17.1° A2102 B2082		A2103 B2083		A2104 B2084		A2105 B2085		A2106 B2086	
8	312	9	313	10	314	11	315	12	316	13	317	14	318	6	340	7	341	8	342	9	343	10	344	11	345	12	346
A2080 B2059		A2081 B2060		A2082 B2061		A2083 B2062		A2084 B2063		A2085 B2064		A2086 B2065		A2107 B2087		A2108		A2109 B2088		A2110 B2089		A2111 B2090		A2112 B2091		A2113 B2092	
15	319	16	320	17	321	18	322	19	323	20	324	21	325	13	347	14	348	15	349	16	350	17	351	18	352	19	353
A2087 B2066		A2088 B2067		A2089 B2068		A2090 B2069		B2070		A2091 B2071		A2092 B2072		A2114 B2093		A2115 B2094		A2116 B2095		A2117 B2096		A2118 B2097		A2119 B2098		A2120 B2099	
22	326	23	327		328	25	329	26	330	27	331	28	332	20	354	21	355	22	356	23	357	24	358	25	359		360
A2093 B2073		A2094 B2074		A2095 B2075		A2096 B2076		A2097 B2077		A2098 B2078		A2099 B2079		A2121 B2100		A2122 B2101		A2123 B2102		A2124 B2103		A2125 B2104		A2126 B2105		B2106	
29	333	30	334	B2073		B2070		B2077		B2076		B2079	7	27	361	28	362	29	363		364	31	365	B2103		B2100	
A2100 B2080		A2101 B2081						C						A2127 B2107		A2128 B2108		A2129 B2109		A2130 B2110		A2131 B2111					

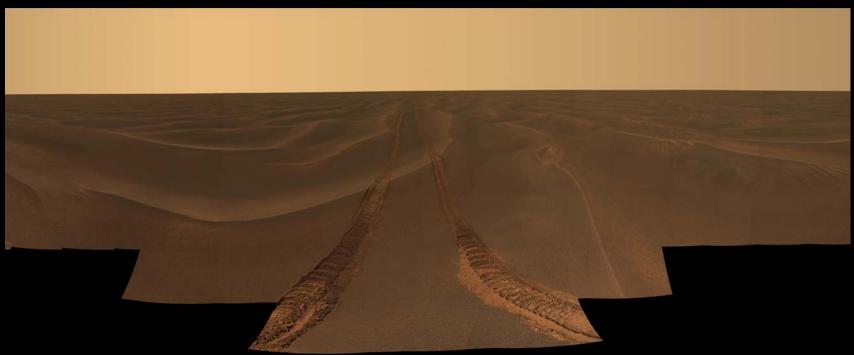


In both the above images, Spirit's wheels have churned up light-toned soil lying just beneath the Martian surface soil in Gusev Crater. In the top image, taken by the Pancam on Spirit's sol 788, the bright soil is confirmed by Spirit's instruments to have a salty chemistry dominated by iron-bearing sulfates. In the bottom image, taken on sol 1202, the light-colored soil is found to be predominantly silica. These two minerals share a likely origin in water. While sulfates can form in several ways, water is involved in most. The deposits of nearly pure silica in Gusev Crater may have formed when volcanic steam or hot water (or maybe both) percolated through the ground. Such deposits are found around hydrothermal vents like those in Yellowstone National Park.



December 1, 2009





January 2010

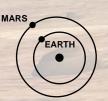
February 2010

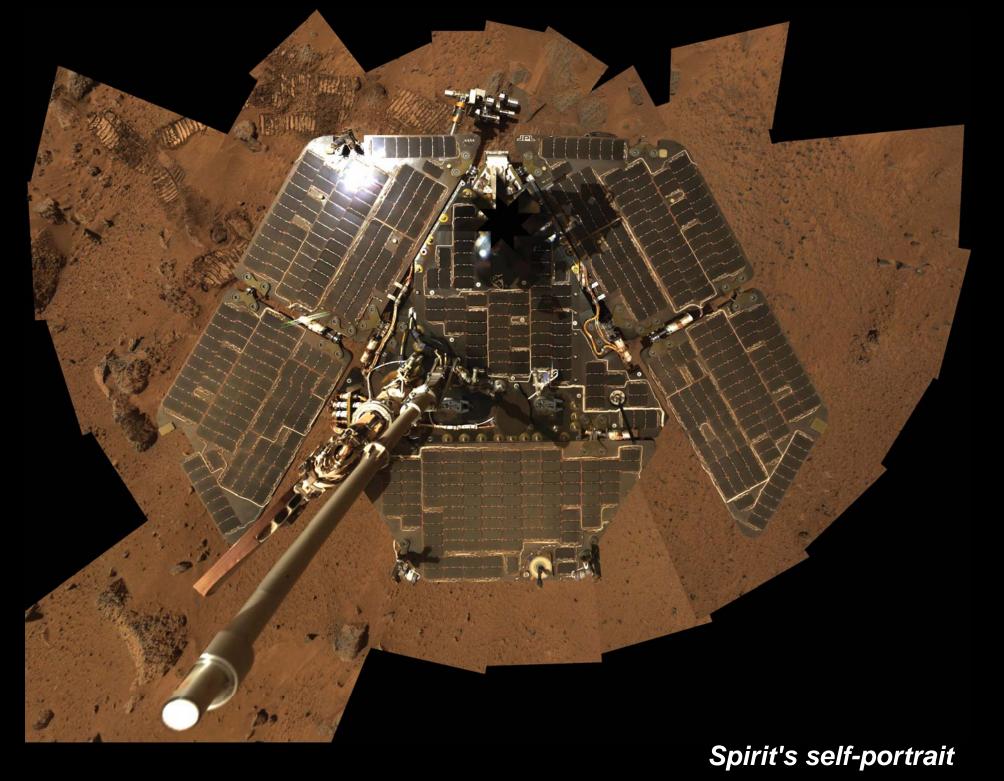
Dynamic dunes

SUN	DAY	MOND	AY	TUESI	DAY	WEDNE	SDAY	THURS	SDAY	FRIDA	Υ	SATUR	DAY	SUNE	DAY	MONE	DAY	TUES	SDAY	WEDNI	ESDAY	THUR	SDAY	FRID	AY	SATU	RDAY
										1	1	2	2			1	32	2	33	3	34	4	35	5	36	6	37
										L _S =31.5° A2132 B2112		A2133 B2113				L _S =45.5°		A2163 B2143		A2164 B2144		A2165 B2145		A2166 B2146		A2167 B2147	
3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6	7	7	8	8	9	9	7	38	8	39	9	40		41	11	42	12	43	13	44
		Spirit 6th Ea Anniver	rth																								
A2134 B2114		A2135 B2115		A2136 B2116		A2137 B2117		A2138 B2118		A2139 B2119		A2140 B2120		A2168 B2148		A2169 B2149		A2170 B2150		A2171 B2151		A2172 B2152		A2173 B2153		A2174 B2154	
10	10	11	11	12	12	13	13	14	14	15	15	16	16	14	45	15	46	16	47	17	48	18	49	19	50	20	51
A2141 B2121		A2142 B2122		A2143 B2123		A2144 B2124		A2145		A2146 B2125		A2147 B2126		A2175 B2155		A2176 B2156		A2177 B2157		A2178 B2158		A2179 B2159		A2180 B2160		A2181	
17	17	18	18	19	19	20	20	21	21	22	22	23	23	21	52	22	53	23	54	24	55	25	56	26	57	27	58
A2148 B2127		A2149 B2128		A2150 B2129	7	A2151 B2130		A2152 B2131		A2153 B2132		A2154 B2133		A2182 B2161		A2183 B2162		A2184 B2163		A2185 B2164		A2186 B2165		A2187 B2166		A2188 B2167	
24 A2162 B2141	24 A2155 B2134		th	26	26	27	27	28	28	29 Mars Oppositi		30	30	28	59												
31	31	A2156 B2135		A2157 B2136		A2158 B2137		A2159 B2138		A2160 B2139		A2161 B2140		A2189 B2168													



The top image is the view from Opportunity on sol 211 of the dune field within Endurance Crater. The dust (a lighter color) accumulates near the dune crests, while hematite-rich spherules (like the "blueberries" in the March-April 2009 image), which appear blue against the scene in this false color version, tend to rest in troughs with more gradual slopes. The bottom panorama from Opportunity (taken from sols 456 to 464), shows Purgatory Dune in which the rover was stuck for over a month. These wind-blown sand and dust features are constantly changing, reaffirming the dynamic nature of the Martian environment.





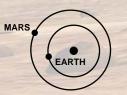
March 2010

April 2010

SUNE	DAY	MOND	AY	TUES	SDAY	WEDNE	SDAY	THURS	SDAY	FRIDA	ΑY	SATUR	DAY	SUNE	PAY	MONI	DAY	TUESE	DAY	WEDNES	DAY	THURSDAY	,	FRIDAY	,	SATU	RDAY
		1	60	2	61	3	62	4	63	5	64	6	65									1 9	1 2	!	92	3	93
		L _S =57.9° A2190 B2169		A2191 B2170		A2192 B2171		A2193 B2172		A2194 B2173		A2195 B2174										L _S =71.4° A2220 B2199	A2: B2:	221 200		A2222 B2201	
7	66	8	67	9	68	10	69	11	70	12	71	13	72	4	94	5	95	6	96	7	97	8 98	9		99	10	100
A2196 B2175		A2197 B2176		A2198 B2177		A2199 B2178		B2179		A2200 B2180		A2201 B2181		A2223 B2202		A2224 B2203		A2225 B2204		A2226 B2205		A2227 B2206	A2:	228 207		A2229 B2208	
14	73	15	74	16	75	17	76	18	77	19	78	20	79	11	101	12	102	13	103	14	104	15 109	5 1	6	106	17	107
A2202 B2182		A2203 B2183		A2204 B2184		A2205 B2185		A2206 B2186		A2207 B2187		A2208 B2188		A2230 B2209		A2231 B2210		A2232 B2211		A2233 B2212		A2234 B2213	A2:	235 214		B2215	
21	80	22	81	23	82	24	83	25	84	26	85	27	86	18	108	19	109	20	110	21	111	22 112	2 2	3	113	24	114
A2209 B2189		A2210 B2190		A2211 B2191		A2212 B2192		A2213 B2193		A2214 B2194		A2215 B2195		A2236 B2216		A2237 B2217		A2238 B2218		A2239 B2219		A2240 B2220	A2:			A2242 B2222	
28	87	29	88	30 Ma		31	90							25	115	26	116	27	117	28	118	29 11 Spirit surpasses Viking	9 3	0	120		
A2216 B2196		A2217		A2218 B2197		A2219 B2198								A2243 B2223		A2244 B2224		A2245 B2225		A2246 B2226		Lander 1 in longevity A2247 B2227		248 228			



This self-portrait of Spirit, taken on its Sol 586, shows the solar panels still gleaming in the Martian sunlight and carrying only a thin veneer of dust even two years after the rover landed and began exploring the red planet. Spirit's Pancam took this mosaic of images as part of a mammoth undertaking that resulted in the largest panorama ever acquired by Spirit at the time. This image is a subset of that panorama, showing just the rover. The vertical projection used here produces the best view of the rover deck itself, though it distorts the ground and antennas somewhat. This image is an approximate true-color rendering that combines images taken through the camera's 600-nanometer, 530-nanometer, and 480-nanometer filters.



April 1, 2010



Martian sunset

NASA/JPL/Texas A&M/Cornell

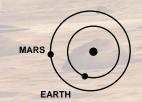
May 2010

June 2010

SUN	DAY	MON	IDAY	TUESI	DAY	WEDNE	SDAY	THURSDA	Y F	RIDAY	SATU	RDAY	SUNE	DAY	MONI	DAY	TUES	DAY	WEDNE	SDAY	THUR	SDAY	FRID	AY	SATU	RDAY
											1	121					1	152	2	153	3	154	4	155	5	156
											L _s =84.5° A2249 B2229	o					L _S =98.3° A2279 B2259		A2280 B2260		A2281 B2261		A2282 B2262		A2283 B2263	
2	122	3	123	4	124	5	125	6 12	²⁶ 7	127	8	128	6	157	7	158	8	159	9	160	10	161	11	162	12	163
A2250 B2230		A2251 B2231		A2252 B2232		A2253 B2233		A2254	A225 B223		A2256 B2235		A2284 B2264		A2285 B2265		A2286 B2266		A2287 B2267		A2288 B2268		A2289 B2269		A2290	
9	129	10	130	11	131	12	132	Southern Mars Winter Solstice	³³ 14	134	15	135	13	164	14	165	15	166	16	167	17	168	18	169	19	170
A2257 B2236		A2258 B2237		A2259 B2238		A2260 B2239		A2261 B2240	A226 B224		A2263 B2242		A2291 B2270		A2292 B2271		A2293 B2272		A2294 B2273		A2295 B2274		A2296 B2275		A2297 B2276	
16	136	17	137	18	138	19	139	20 14 Opportunity surpasses Viking Land 1 in longevit	er	141	22	142	20	171	21	172	22	173	23	174	24	175	25	176	26	177
A2264 B2243		A2265 B2244		A2266 B2245		A2267 B2246		A2268 B2247	A226 B224		A2270 B2249		A2298 B2277		A2299 B2278		A2300 B2279		A2301 B2280		A2302 B2281		A2303 B2282		A2304 B2283	
143 A2277 B2257	23 A2271 B2250	144 A2278 B2258	24 A2272 B2251	25	145	26	146	27 14	20		29	149	27	178	28	179	29	180	30	181						
30	150	31	151	B2252		A2273 B2253		A2274 B2254	A227 B225		A2276 B2256		A2305 B2284		A2306 B2285		A2307 B2286		A2308 B2287							



Spirit captured this stunning view as the Sun sank below the rim of Gusev Crater on Mars around 6:07 in the evening of Spirit's sol 489. This small panorama of the western sky was obtained using the Pancam's 750-nanometer, 530-nanometer, and 430-nanometer color filters. This filter combination allows false-color images to be generated that are similar to what a human would see, but with the colors slightly exaggerated. In this image, the bluish glow in the sky above the Sun would be visible to us if we were there, but the redness of the sky farther from the sunset is exaggerated. Other images have shown that the twilight glow is visible for up to two hours before sunrise or after sunset. The long Martian twilight is caused by sunlight scattered around to the night side of the planet by abundant high-altitude dust.



June 1, 2010



Sol companion

NASA/JPL

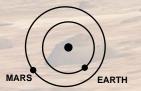
July 2010

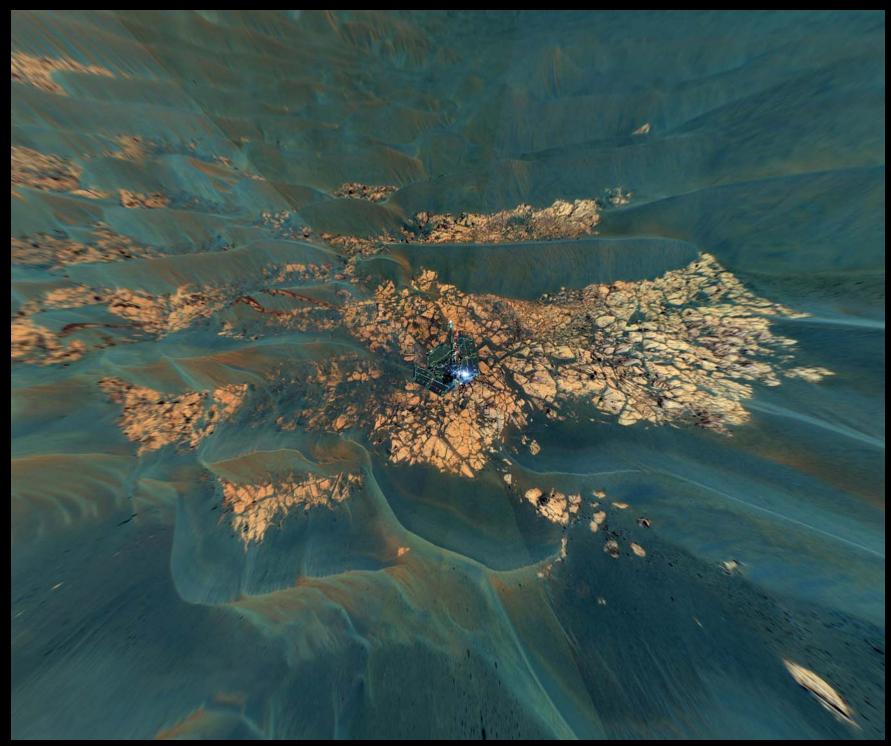
August 2010

SUN	DAY	MON	DAY	TUES	SDAY	WEDNE	SDAY	THURS	DAY	FRID	AY	SATU	RDAY	SUNI	DAY	MON	DAY	TUES	SDAY	WEDN	ESDAY	THUR	SDAY	FRID	AY	SATU	RDAY
								1	182	2	183	3	184	1	213	2	214	3	215	4	216	5	217	6	218	7	219
								L _S =111.8° B2288		A2309 B2289		A2310 B2290		L _S =126.3° A2339 B2318	0	A2340 B2319		A2341 B2320		A2342 B2321		A2343 B2322		A2344 B2323		B2324	
4	185	5	186	6	187	7	188	8	189	9	190	10	191	8	220	9	221	10	222	11	223	12	224	13	225	14	226
A2311 B2291		A2312 B2292		A2313 B2293		A2314 B2294		A2315 B2295		A2316 B2296		A2317 B2297		A2345 B2325		A2346 B2326		A2347 B2327		A2348 B2328		A2349 B2329		A2350 B2330		A2351 B2331	
11	192	12	193	13	194	14	195	15	196	16	197	17	198	15	227	16	228	17	229	18	230	19	231	20	232	21	233
A2318 B2298		A2319 B2299		A2320 B2300		A2321 B2301		A2322 B2301		A2323 B2303		A2324 B2304		A2352 B2332		A2353 B2333		A2354 B2334	N.	A2355 B2335		A2356 B2336		A2357 B2337		A2358 B2338	
18	199	19	200	20	201	21	202	22	203	23	204	24	205	22	234	23	235	24	236	25	237	26	238	27	239	28	240
A2325 B2305		A2326 B2306		A2327		A2328 B2307		A2329 B2308		A2330 B2309		A2331 B2310		A2359 B2339		A2360 B2340		A2361 B2341		A2362 B2342		A2363		A2364 B2343		A2365 B2344	
25	206	26	207	27	208	28	209	29	210	30	211	31	212	29	241	30	242	31	243								
A2332 B2311		A2333 B2312	Para.	A2334 B2313		A2335 B2314		A2336 B2315		A2337 B2316		A2338 B2317		A2366 B2345		A2367 B2346		A2368 B2347									



Opportunity takes a picture of its own shadow as it continues its descent into Endurance Crater. With the Sun low on the horizon, the rover's rear-facing, black-and-white Hazard Avoidance Camera, or Hazcam, easily picks out details of the surface texture and the rover's own tracks in the loose soil. The rovers have two pairs of Hazcams—front and back—to support automated navigation, scanning the immediate land-scape for obstacles that may hinder or damage it. The image was taken on sol 180 (July 26, 2004), a date that marks the achievement of fully double the rover's primary 90-sol mission.





Ripples all around

NASA/JPL-Caltech/Cornell

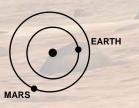
September 2010

October 2010

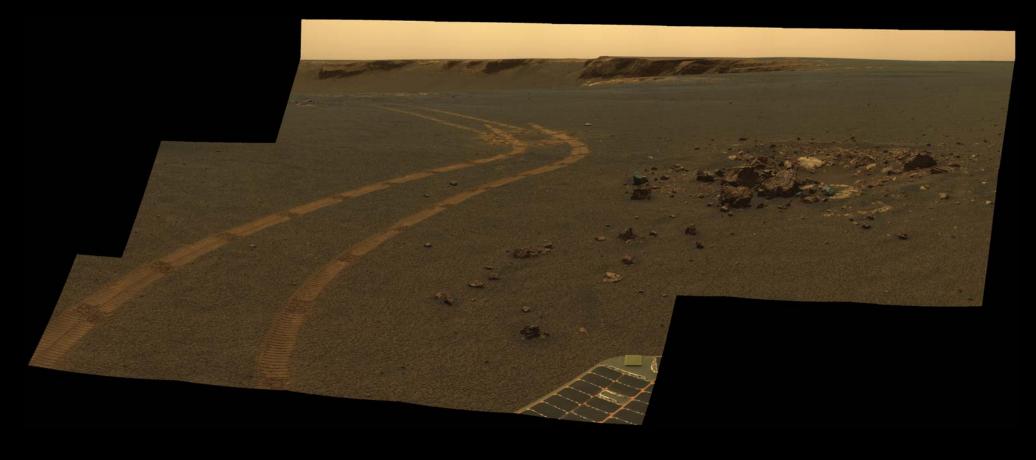
SUNI	DAY	MON	DAY	TUE	SDAY	WEDNE	ESDAY	THUR	SDAY	FRID	DAY	SATUR	RDAY	SUN	IDAY	MON	DAY	TUES	DAY	WEDNE	SDAY	THUR	SDAY	FRID	AY	SATU	RDAY
						1	244	2	245	3	246	4	247											1	274	2	275
						L _S =141.4 A2369 B2348	0	A2370 B2349		A2371 B2350		A2372 B2351												L _S =156.7 A2398 B2378	0	A2399	
5	248	6	249	7	250	8	251	9	252	10	253	11	254	3	276	4	277	5	278	6	279	7	280	8	281	9	282
A2373 B2352		A2374 B2353		A2375 B2354		A2376 B2355		A2377 B2356		A2378 B2357		A2379 B2358		A2400 B2379		A2401 B2380		A2402 B2381		A2403 B2382		A2404 B2383		A2405 B2384		A2406 B2385	
12	255	13	256	14	257	15	258	16	259	17	260	18	261	10	283	11	284	12	285	13	286	14	287	15	288	16	289
A2380 B2359		A2381 B2360		B2361		A2382 B2362		A2383 B2363		A2384 B2364		A2385 B2365		A2407 B2386		A2408 B2387		A2409 B2388	X.	A2410 B2389		A2411 B2390		A2412 B2391		A2413 B2392	
19	262	20	263	21	264	22	265	23	266	24	267	25	268	17	290	18	291	19	292	20	293	21	294	22	295	23	296
A2386 B2366		A2387 B2367		A2388 B2368		A2389 B2369		A2390 B2370		A2391 B2371		A2392 B2372		A2414 B2393		A2415 B2394		A2416 B2395		A2417 B2396		B2397		A2418 B2398		A2419 B2399	
26	269	27	270	28	271	29	272	30	273					297 A2427	24 A2420 B2400	25	298	26	299	27	300	28	301	29	302	30	303
A2393 B2373		A2394 B2374		A2395 B2375		A2396 B2376		A2397 B2377						B2407 31	304	A2421 B2401		A2422 B2402		A2423 B2403		A2424 B2404		A2425 B2405		A2426 B2406	



This view at the edge of Erebus Crater is a false-color composite 360-degree panorama from frames taken by Opportunity's Pancam on Sols 652 through 663. The mosaic is presented as a vertical projection, providing a true-to-scale overhead view of the rover deck and nearby surrounding terrain. The view here shows outcrop rocks, sand dunes, and other features out to a distance of about 25 meters (82 feet) from the rover. The view shows examples of the dunes and ripples that Opportunity crossed as it drove on the Meridiani plains.



October 1, 2010





Toward autonomy: navigation and data capture

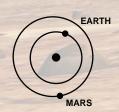
November 2010

December 2010

SUNI	DAY	MONI	DAY	TUES	SDAY	WEDNI	ESDAY	THUR	SDAY	FRID	AY	SATU	IRDAY	SUN	DAY	MON	DAY	TUES	DAY	WEDN	ESDAY	THUR	SDAY	FRID	DAY	SATUI	RDAY
		1	305	2	306	3	307	4	308	5	309	6	310							1	335	2	336	3	337	4	338
		L _S =173.4° A2428 B2408)	A2429 B2409		A2430 B2410		A2431 B2411		A2432 B2412		A2433 B2413								L _S =190.3 A2457 B2437	0	A2458 B2438		A2459 B2439		A2460 B2440	
7	311	8	312	9	313	10	314	11	315	12	316	13	317	6	339	6	340	7	341	8	342	9	343	10	344	11	345
												Sout Mars \ Equi	/ernal														
A2434 B2414		A2435 B2415		A2436		A2437 B2416		A2438 B2417		A2439 B2418		A2440 B2429		A2461 B2441		A2462 B2442		A2463 B2443		A2464 B2444		A2465 B2445		A2466 B2446		A2467 B2447	
14	318	15	319	16	320	17	321	18	322	19	323	20	324	13	346	13	347	14	348	15	349	16	350	17	351	18	352
A2441 B2420		A2442 B2421		A2443 B2422		A2444 B2423		A2445 B2424		A2446 B2425		A2447 B2426		A2468 B2448		A2469 B2449		A2470 B2450	X.	A2471 B2451		A2472		A2473 B2452		A2474 B2453	
21	325	22	326	23	327	24	328	25	329	26	330	27	331	20	353	20	354	21	355	22	356	23	357	24	358	25	359
A2448 B2427		A2449 B2428		A2450 B2429		A2451 B2430		A2452 B2431		A2453 B2432		B2433		A2475 B2454		A2476 B2455		A2477 B2456		A2478 B2457		A2479 B2458		A2480 B2459		A2481 B2460	
28	332	29	333	30	334					63				27	360	27	361	28	362	29	363	30	364	31	365		
A2454 B2434		A2455 B2435		A2456 B2436				0						A2482 B2461		A2483 B2462		A2484 B2463		A2485 B2464		A2486 B2465		A2487 B2466			



NASA's twin Mars Exploration Rovers have grown smarter as they've grown older. The top image from Opportunity shows the tracks left by a drive executed with more onboard autonomy than ever before. Opportunity was testing a navigational capability called "Field D-star," which enables the rover to plan optimal long-range drives around any obstacles in order to travel the most direct, safe route to a destination. Opportunity and its twin, Spirit, acquired this capability in their third year on Mars. The bottom image is one frame of a movie taken by Spirit's navigation camera of a passing Martian dust devil. How did the rover know a dust devil was passing? It—and Opportunity—had acquired some new artificial intelligence software called "autonomous sciencecraft" that enabled it to recognize and capture just such a transient event without any commands from Earth.



December 1, 2010

Mars Exploration Rovers Quick Facts

Launch vehicles: Boeing Delta II

Launch date:

Spirit—June 10, 2003 UTC Opportunity—July 7, 2003 UTC

Arrival date:

Spirit— January 4, 2004 UTC Opportunity—January 25, 2004 UTC

Landing site:

Spirit—Gusev Crater (14.57°S, 175.47°E) Opportunity—Eagle Crater on Meridiani Planum (1.95°S, 354.47°E)

Landing technology: Atmospheric entry aeroshell, backshell with parachute and retro rockets, and airbags to cushion landing.

Mission objective: Assess the history of environmental conditions at sites that may once have been wet and favorable to life.

Duration of primary mission: 90 Martian days (sols)

Duration of primary plus extended mission: Over five years

Total distance covered in first five years:
Spirit—7.5 kilometers (4.7 miles)
Opportunity—13.6 kilometers (8.5 miles)

One day Martian driving record: Opportunity, 140.9 meters (462 feet) on April 30, 2004

Number of images sent to Earth: Over 220,000

Amount of data returned: More than 36 gigabytes

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Jet Propulsion LaboratoryCalifornia Institute of Technology
Pasadena, California

Mars Exploration Rovers Project Management

John Callas, JPL, Pasadena, CA

Project Manager

Bruce Banerdt, JPL, Pasadena, CA

Project Scientist

Diana Blaney, JPL, Pasadena, CA

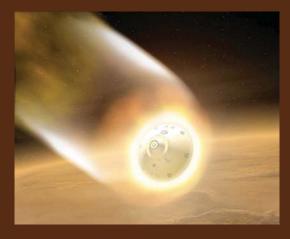
Deputy Project Scientist

Steven Squyres, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Athena Science Payload Principal Investigator

Ray Arvidson, Washington University, St. Louis, MO

Deputy Athena Science Payload Principal Investigator



The aeroshell protects the rover from fiery temperatures as it enters the Martian atmosphere. (Artist's rendering)

For more information, visit marsrovers.jpl.nasa.gov and mars.jpl.nasa.gov.