

An Alluvial Fan in a Low-Latitude Crater

On Mars, alluvial fans are sometimes visible in impact crater basins, as material from the steep rims is transported radially inward to the relatively flat floor. Because this is a water-driven process on Earth, and therefore might work the same way on Mars, scientists study Martian alluvial fans order to try to better understand the climate history and possible warmer, wetter past of Mars.



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Touring a Dusty Region

This close-up of the roughly 2.5 kilometer-diameter crater at the bottom of the main image shows ridges on the crater floor where dust has become trapped within the crater, and bright and dark streaks down the crater walls where dust has avalanched down the slope.



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The Draa of Mars

On Mars we can observe four classes of bedforms in order of increasing lengths between the crests: ripples, transverse aeolian ridges (TARs), dunes, and what are called draas. Here, this giant draa possess steep faces or slip faces several hundreds of meters tall and has lower-order superposed bedforms, such as ripples and dunes.





A Large Crater in Meridiani Planum

This crater is located in Meridiani Planum, about 20-kilometers northwest of where the Opportunity rover landed in 2004 (and about 42-kilometers northwest of Endeavour Crater's rim, where the rover has been busy the past few years). Although it's in the opposite direction from where the rover went, this crater is still an interesting place. With a diameter of 4-kilometers, it's the largest crater in the region other than Endeavour Crater (22 kilometers).

