

Lace on Mars

Some seasonal ice on Mars is transparent so that the sunlight penetrates to the bottom of the ice. Heat from this sunlight can turn the ice directly into a gas in a process called sublimation and this gas can scour channels in the loose dirt under the ice. Channels formed by sublimation of a layer of seasonal dry ice are so dense in this area that they look like lace.







Spiders on Mounds

This terrain looks like lumpy sediment on top of patterned ground. The lumpy sediment is likely just loosely consolidated because it is covered with spidery channels. This landform is uniquely Martian, formed in the spring as seasonal dry ice turn directly into gas that erodes channels in the surface.



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Secondary Craters

It is necessary to distinguish secondary craters from the primary impacts that we rely upon to estimate the ages of Martian surfaces. The large number of small craters clustered together here is typical of crater rays elsewhere on Mars and suggests that these are indeed, secondary impact craters.



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Soffen Crater Floor

Dr. Gerald A. Soffen (February 7, 1926 – November 22, 2000) was a project scientist for the NASA's Viking program of Mars landers. This crater on Mars was named after him, and this image covers a small portion of the crater floor. Here, we see a diversity of bedrock colors and textures (see enhanced-color cutout) and windblown (aeolian) features.



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