



# What Is It?

ESP\_027912\_1770

This image reveals some very curious topography. There is an elevated mesa (plateau) with lobate margins and a patterned surface, connected to a shallow depression in the east, on the right-hand side of the map-projected image. The image is in southern Elysium Planitia, location of the youngest extensive lava plains on Mars. Typical lava flows in this region are quite thin, like those in the shallow depression, but this mesa may be a much thicker flow.

*The HIRISE camera onboard the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter is the most powerful one of its kind ever sent to another planet. Its high resolution allows us to see Mars like never before, and helps other missions choose a safe spot to land for future exploration. Thousands of images are available online at: [uahirise.org](http://uahirise.org).*