



Bits and Pieces...

ESP_028269_1755

HIRISE

HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGING
SCIENCE EXPERIMENT
UAHIRISE.ORG

 THE UNIVERSITY
OF ARIZONA

NASA's Mars Science Laboratory was lowered to the Martian surface via the sky crane, a rocket propelled stage that used its rockets to gently deliver the rover to the surface. As soon as the rover touched the surface, explosive bolts triggered to released from it from its tethers. The sky crane then tilted 45 degrees and flew away until it ran out of fuel, at which point it crashed onto the surface. The image shown here shows the sky crane's impact site, as the sky crane careened in roughly from the northwest. The impact disturbed the bright dust, revealing the darker rocky substrate. It was no light impact.

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.