

Stunning Landscape Near Mamers Valles

ESP_028313_2220



This region of Mars has been long studied for its evidence of glacial-like flow features. The landscape is dominated by flat top mesas and flat valley floors. But a closer look shows evidence that soil material is flowing ever so gradually from the edges of the mesas out into the valleys. Such flow can result from excessively ice-rich deposits analogous to glaciers. "Streamlines" (curved ridges) mark the flow direction, while "flow fronts" mark where material has reached its furthest extent or where material has collided with an obstacle or otherwise bunched up.

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.