



A Pedestal Crater in the Northern Mid-Latitudes

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This image is of a pedestal crater at 43 degrees north. The lobate pattern around the circular crater is where the crater ejecta landed. This area is now raised above the level of the surrounding plains, forming a mesa, or plateau, with the crater at the center. This suggests that at one time the surface of the whole region was at this level. The ejecta from the crater covered the area near the crater and protected it, while the surrounding region was eroded away, leaving the crater high standing.

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.