

Where Curiosity May Roam

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This image is part of a series of color strips being acquired by HiRISE to support future traverse planning by the Curiosity rover. This enhanced-color subimage shows an interesting portion of this scene, on the low slopes at the base of "Mount Sharp," where the rover could study deposits with diverse lithologies (rock types). The darkest areas mark deposits of loose, windblown sand. In general the bluer colors mark unaltered igneous minerals whereas the warm colors are due to altered minerals.

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.