



The Velvety Blue Dunes of Melas Chasma

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This enhanced color image shows sand dunes in Melas Chasma, located within the Valles Marineris canyon system. The dark-blue and purple colors indicate coarse-grained sands that are comprised of basalt, an iron and magnesium-rich volcanic rock that formed from cooled lava millions of years ago when volcanism was an active process on Mars. (NASA/JPL/University of Arizona. 251 km above the surface; less than 1 km across.)

