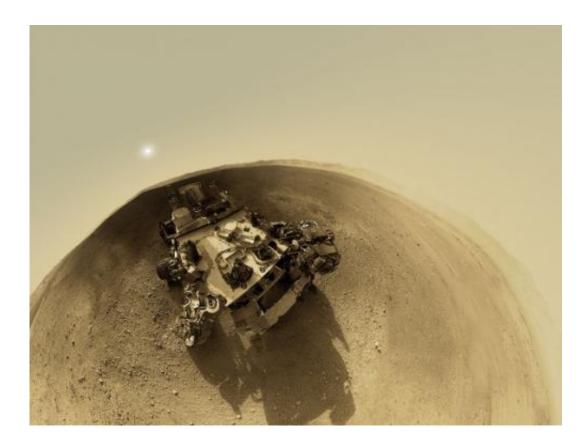


A 360-degree 'street view' from Mars

August 15 2012, by John Williams



360-degree panoramic image of the Martian landscape surrounding NASA's Curiosity. Credit: Andrew Bodrov

After seeing all the amazing imagery so far from NASA's Mars rover Curiosity, I know everyone wants to go there and take in the visual treats of Gale Crater. With the help of a 360-degree panorama you can virtually explore Curiosity's landing site; sort of like a Martian version of Google's Street View.



Take a martian minute to explore the panorama at <u>360pano.eu</u>.

Photographer Andrew Bodrov stitched together <u>images</u> from Curiosity's navigation cameras to create the panorama. "After seeing some of the stitches of Curiosity's images at NASA's website, I decided to stitch the panorama myself," Bodrov told Universe Today.

He uses PTGui panoramic stitching software from New House Internet Services BV (<u>www.ptgui.com</u>) to create the 360-degree view of the mountains and sky surrounding the car-sized rover that successfully landed on Mars on August 6th.

"NASA has still not published enough source material to assemble a complete panorama in color," Bodrov says. He used a color filter to make the images more representable. He also added that the sky and sun in the <u>panorama</u> were added in Adobe Photoshop. He used the size of the Sun seen in this spectacular <u>image</u> of a Martian sunset from <u>NASA</u>'s Spirit rover taken in 2005 as a guide.

While Bodrov says the high-resolution images themselves are amazing, just seeing a picture of another world is more inspiring. "It's very nice to see the achievements of humanity which allows you to see a picture of another world," he said.

Bodrov says he has more than 12 years experience creating panoramas including an <u>awesome panorama (complete with sound)</u> for the Russian Federal Space Agency of a Soyuz/Progress launch from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in August 2011.

Provided by Universe Today



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