

Opportunity Mars rover pushes past 41 kilometers of driving on red planet

November 26 2014, by Elizabeth Howell



The Opportunity rover continues to make tracks after passing 41 kilometers (28.5 miles) on Mars. View from Sol 3,846 in November 2014. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/Cornell Univ./Arizona State Univ.

Opportunity is the rover that keeps on going and going. It recently [broke an extraterrestrial driving record](#) after 10 years of working on the Red Planet.

And even as the rover works through [aging problems](#), the science team is still able to push it further—it just crested 41 kilometers (25.48 miles) on Sol Sol 3,836 (around Nov. 9)! Check out some recent pictures from the rover below.

The NASA machine is roaming the west edge of Endeavour Crater on its way to an area nicknamed "Marathon Valley", which could contain [clay minerals](#). Clays are considered a sign of water being in a region in the ancient past, which feeds into NASA's ongoing search for habitable environments on Mars.

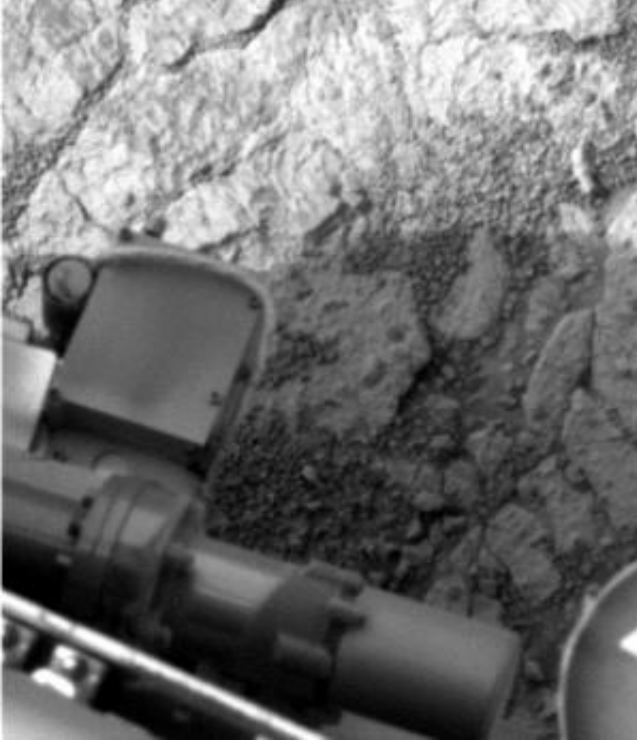
By the way, Opportunity is now just shy of a marathon's worth of driving on Mars (which would be 26 miles, or 41.8 kilometers). In the meantime, we've collected some raw images from Opportunity to share. What new horizons will the plucky rover find next, as it draws close to its 11th anniversary on Mars in January?



Solar panels from the Opportunity Mars rover shine against the mottled ground on Sol 3,846 in November 2014. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/Cornell Univ./Arizona State Univ.



The wind-swept plains of Mars as seen by the Opportunity rover on Sol 3,846 in November 2014. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/Cornell Univ./Arizona State Univ.



A close-up of the cracked Martian ground taken by the Opportunity rover on Sol 3,846 in November 2014. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/Cornell Univ./Arizona State Univ.



The shadow of the Opportunity rover (bottom) lies dark against Mars ground on Sol 3,841 in November 2014. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/Cornell Univ./Arizona State Univ.

Source: [Universe Today](#)

Citation: Opportunity Mars rover pushes past 41 kilometers of driving on red planet (2014, November 26) retrieved 1 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2014-11-opportunity-mars->

rover-kilometers-red.html

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.