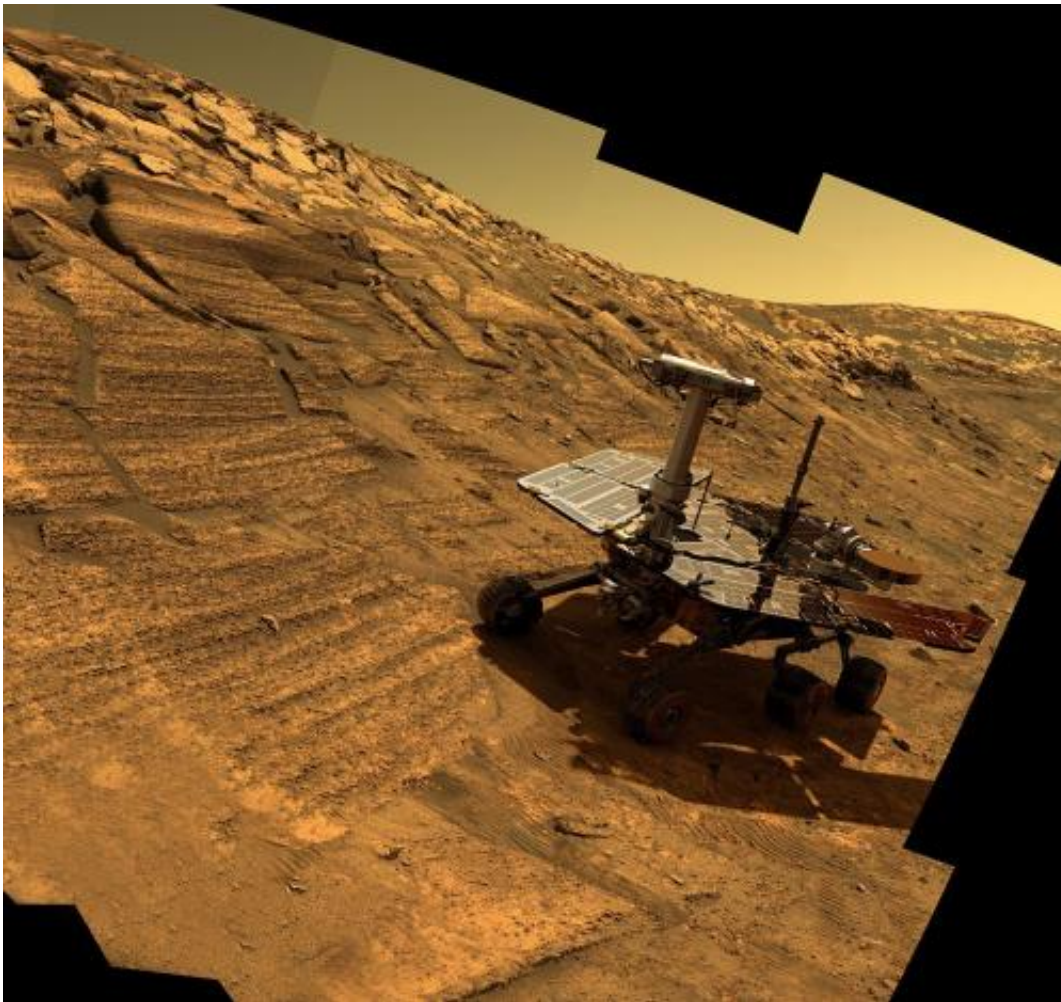


# NASA rover Opportunity completes marathon milestone on Mars

March 24 2015

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Opportunity on a Martian crater (simulated view). Credit: NASA

NASA says the Opportunity rover has passed the marathon mark for

driving on Mars.

The [space agency](#) said Tuesday the rover's odometer checked in at 26.2 miles—the distance of a marathon.

The official time? Eleven years and two months.

Scientists and engineers will celebrate Opportunity's achievement by holding their own marathon relay at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which manages the mission.

Last year, Opportunity broke the record for off-Earth distance traveled that was previously held by the Soviet Union's Lunokhod 2 [moon rover](#).

Opportunity and its twin Spirit landed on Mars in January 2004 for what was supposed to be a three-month mission. Both uncovered geologic signs of ancient water.

Spirit's mission ended in 2011 not long after it got stuck in Martian sand.

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