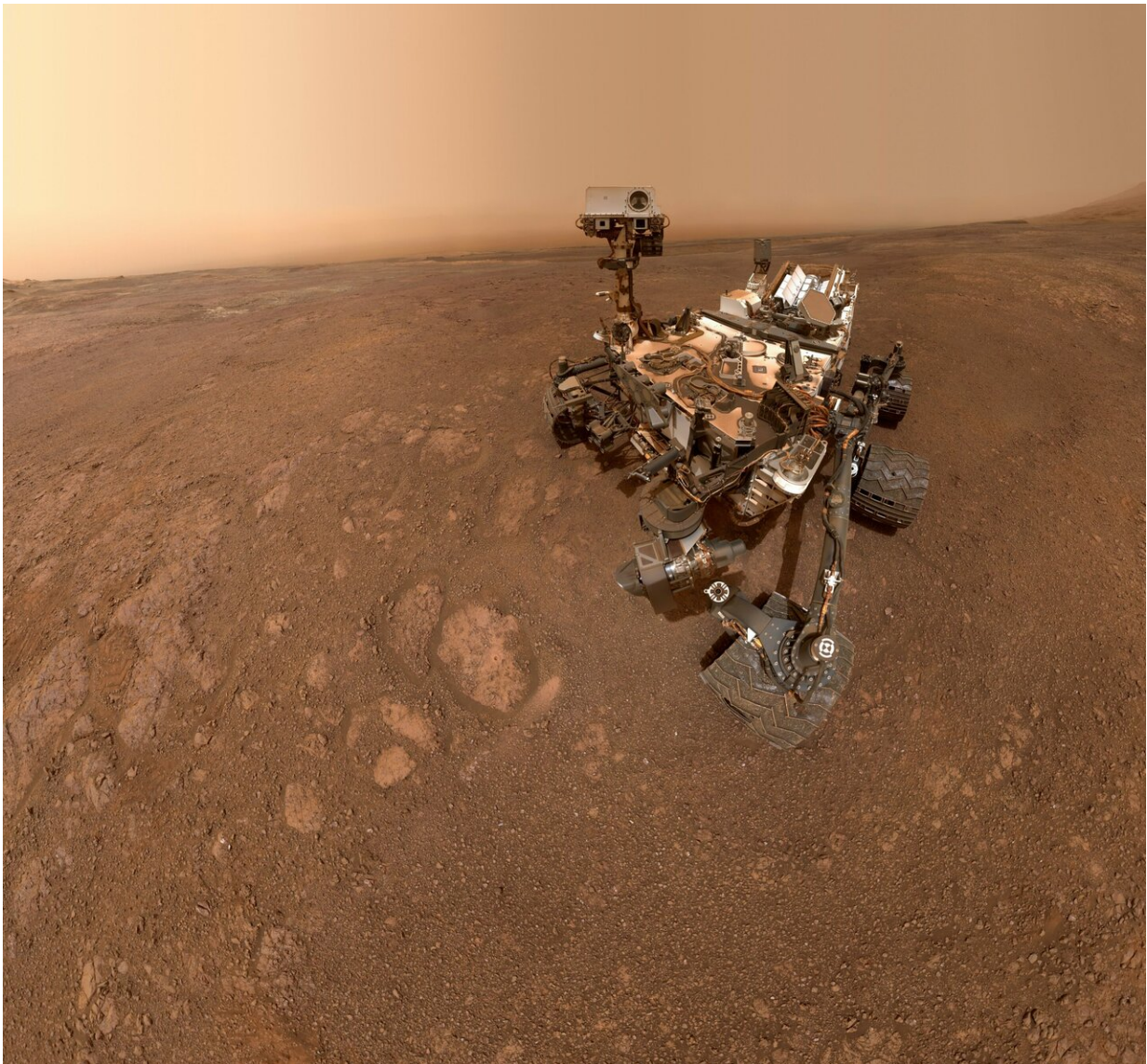


Curiosity says farewell to Mars' Vera Rubin Ridge

January 28 2019, by Andrew Good



A selfie taken by NASA's Curiosity Mars rover on Sol 2291 (January 15) at the

"Rock Hall" drill site, located on Vera Rubin Ridge. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

NASA's Curiosity rover has taken its last selfie on Vera Rubin Ridge and descended toward a clay region of Mount Sharp. The twisting ridge on Mars has been the rover's home for more than a year, providing scientists with new samples - and new questions - to puzzle over.

On Dec. 15, Curiosity drilled its 19th sample at a location on the ridge called Rock Hall. On Jan. 15, the spacecraft used its Mars Hand Lens Imager (MAHLI) camera on the end of its [robotic arm](#) to take a series of 57 pictures, which were stitched together into this selfie.

The "Rock Hall" drill hole is visible to the lower left of the rover; the scene is dustier than usual at this time of year due to a regional dust storm.

Curiosity has been exploring the ridge since September of 2017. It's now headed into the "clay-bearing unit," which sits in a trough just south of the ridge.

Clay minerals in this unit may hold more clues about the ancient lakes that helped form the lower levels on Mount Sharp.

Provided by Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Citation: Curiosity says farewell to Mars' Vera Rubin Ridge (2019, January 28) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2019-01-curiosity-farewell-mars-vera-rubin.html>

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