NASA orbiter views sites of fiction film's Mars landings

October 7 2015

This May 2015 image from the HiRISE camera on NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter shows a location on Mars associated with the best-selling novel and Hollywood movie, "The Martian." Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/Univ. of Arizona

Images from a NASA Mars orbiter's telescopic camera reveal details of real regions on Mars where a new Hollywood movie, "The Martian," places future astronaut adventures.

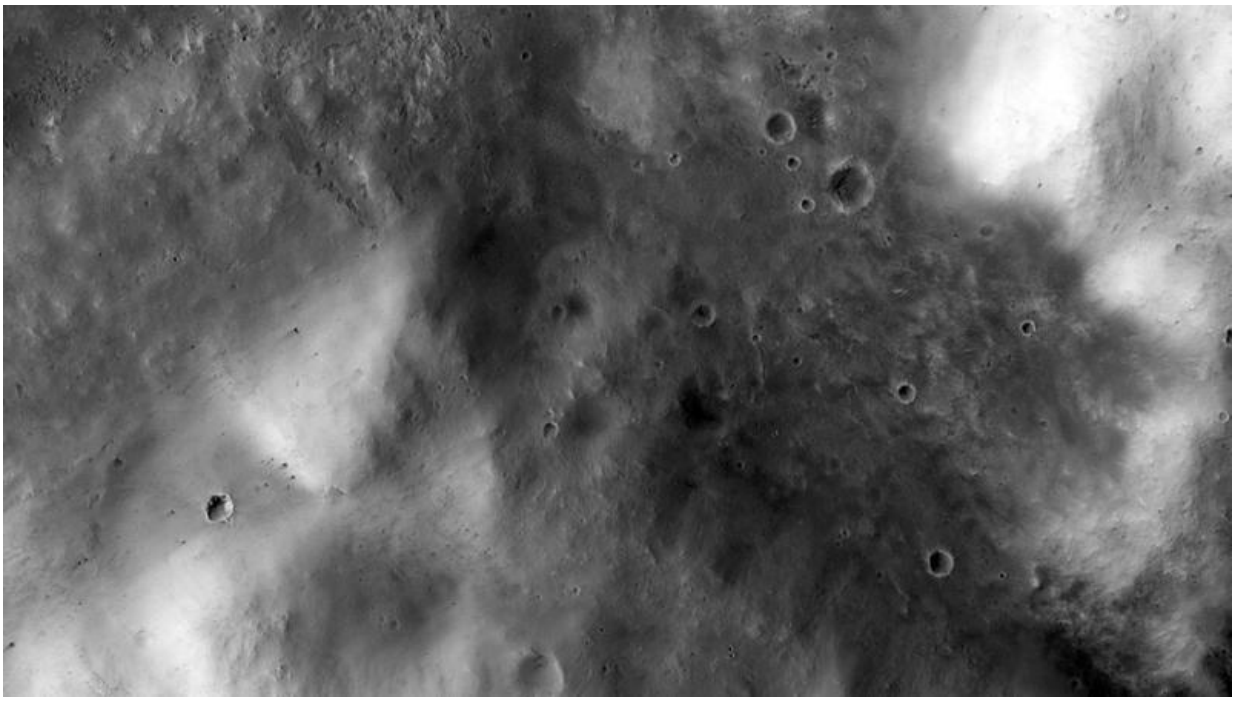
The novel of the same name used actual locations on Mars for the landing sites for its "Ares 3" and "Ares 4" missions. The landing sites for "Ares 3" is on a Martian plain named Acidalia Planitia. The base for the "Ares 4" mission was set inside a crater named Schiaparelli.

Views of these two sites, and other locations pertinent to the fictional story, are in the latest weekly release of images from the High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment (HiRISE) camera on NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter. They are available online at: uahirise.org/martian

Each observation by HiRISE covers an area of several square miles and shows details as small as a desk. More than 39,000 of them have been taken since the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter reached Mars in 2006. They are available online for anyone to explore, from the comfort of home, at: hirise.lpl.arizona.edu

The HiRISE team has an online process through which anyone can register to submit suggestions for sites to be imaged on Mars, at: www.uahirise.org/hiwish

This image from the HiRISE camera on NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter shows a location associated with the novel and movie, "The Martian." Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/Univ. of Arizona



In the novel and movie "The Martian," an astronaut's adventures take him to the rim of Mawrth Crater. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/Univ. of Arizona

More information: For more information about the MRO, which has been studying Mars from orbit since 2006, visit www.nasa.gov/mro

Provided by NASA

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