

# NASA rover nears Martian crater goal

NASA's Mars rover *Opportunity* is closing in on a key goal of its mission – a massive impact crater that scientists believe could yield a treasure trove of information about the geological history of the red planet

## OPPORTUNITY – MISSION MAP

Opportunity and its twin, Spirit, continue to operate months after the end of their original 90-day mission

Opportunity  
Meridiani  
Planum

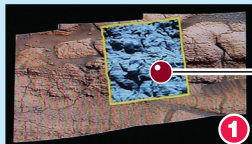
MARS

Spirit  
Gusev  
crater

MERIDIANI  
PLANUM

Landing  
Jan 25, 2004

Eagle crater  
Jan-Mar 04



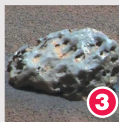
Endurance  
crater

May-Dec 04  
Rock layers  
in crater rim



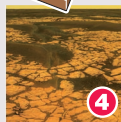
Scientists  
claim rocks could  
only have been formed  
in presence of surface water

Heat Shield  
Rock: Jan 05  
First meteorite  
ever found on  
another planet



Erebus crater

Oct 05-Mar 06  
Rocks formed  
by wind and  
surface water



Victoria crater  
Sep 2006

**Victoria crater:** Engineers will study rover images to plot best route into crater

