

# NASA rovers approach third anniversary

NASA's Mars Exploration Rovers *Spirit* and *Opportunity* have clocked up three years in their quest to find life on the Martian surface, hugely surpassing their expected lifetime of just three months

## MISSION MAPS: *Spirit*

**Landing: Jan 3, 2004**

Mast-mounted cameras  
Solar panels  
Instrument arm

*Opportunity*  
Meridiani Planum

MARS

*Spirit*  
Gusev crater

Antennas  
Mobility system

Columbia Memorial Station

Bonneville crater

500m  
0.3 miles

GUSEV CRATER

## *Opportunity*

**Landing: Jan 25, 2004**

Columbia Hills summit

Eagle crater

Endurance crater

**Home plate: Mar 2006 – right front wheel fails, hampering movement**

MERIDIANI PLANUM

Erebus crater

**Victoria crater**  
Arrival Sep 2006

Distance\*  
6.9km

Distance\*  
9.7km

Scientists hope rock layers at Victoria crater will yield important clues about Martian geology