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### New Mars Cydonia Pictures - Including 'The Face'

From: **Asgeir W. Skavhaug** <[asge-s@online.no](mailto:asge-s@online.no)>  
Date: Sun, 11 Jul 1999 23:41:39 +0200  
Fwd Date: Tue, 13 Jul 1999 11:06:39 -0400  
Subject: New Mars Cydonia Pictures - Including 'The Face'

Hi List,

The Cydonia region on Mars is perhaps most "famous" for being the location of a feature that--in Viking Orbiter images--seemed to resemble a human face. Nearby buttes and hills were considered by some to represent a "city".

Last year, several pictures of a portion of the Cydonia region of Mars were photographed, at lower resolution than is now possible in the Mapping Phase of the MGS mission.

The Mars Orbiter Camera (MOC) onboard the Mars Global Surveyor (MGS) orbiter, was designed specifically to bridge the gap between what can be seen from orbit in typical Mariner 9 and Viking orbiter images, and what can be seen from the ground by landers such as Viking 1 and Mars Pathfinder. The camera, therefore, takes pictures of extremely high resolution. These images are often comparable to aerial photographs used by geologists when they are exploring Earth. The highest resolution images that can be obtained are in the range of 1.4 to 2.0 meters (4.6 to 6.5 feet) per pixel.

The MGS spacecraft flew over the "famous" Cydonia landforms again--for the first time since April 1998--on June 27, 1999, at 10:53 UTC (Greenwich Mean Time). The new MOC images shown here provide the highest resolution view yet obtained of the "Cydonia city" landforms.

See the new unprocessed and processed pictures -- created on July 7, 1999, and produced by Malin Space Science Systems -- here:

<http://photojournal.jpl.nasa.gov/cgi-bin/PIAGenCatalogPage.pl?PIA02092>

<http://photojournal-a.jpl.nasa.gov//outdir/PIA02092.4968.jpeg>

Images were subjected to image processing techniques to improve the visibility of features in the images. The processing applied includes bit-error correction, reseau removal, very slight brightness alteration, and projection to a standard map view (mercator projection) with north at the top.

Contrast/Brightness enhancements and image sharpening were not performed as these would create images that would differ depending on the nature of the monitor on which they were being viewed.

Best Regards,

Asgeir

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