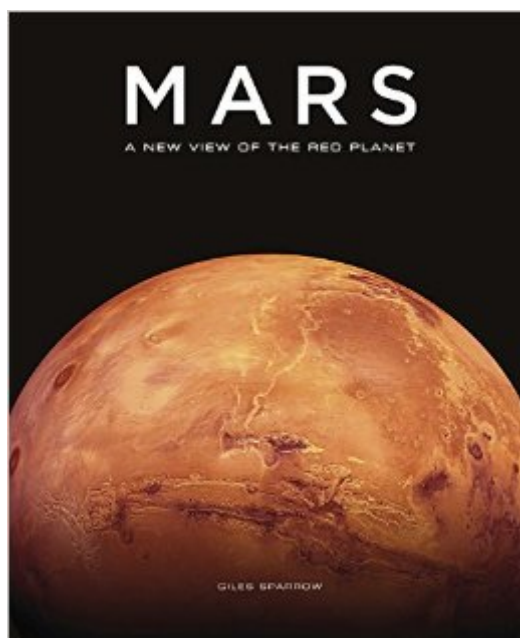


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Mars



Synopsis

Mars has always fascinated humanity and the findings of the past decade have revolutionized ideas about our nearest neighbor--revealing its watery past and geological similarity to Earth. This gorgeously illustrated volume is filled with the latest and most magnificent images to be sent back from Curiosity, will walk you in the footsteps of the NASA probes and rovers that have been surveying the planet from 1964 until the present day. Experience its other-worldly beauty as you hover over sinister dust devils, immense icecaps and textured rock formations. Mars charts an incredible course across this unfamiliar planet, depicting all sides, seasons, channels and chasms, from the North Pole to the Southern Highlands. Witness the soaring heights of Olympus Mons--the tallest volcano in the Solar System--watch a giant dust storm tear through the canyons of the Valles Marineris, and explore the broad valleys of Chryse Planitia, scarred from catastrophic floods. Detailed and accessible essays explain how Mars was formed, shedding light on its internal and external structure, weather systems and unique geographical features, as well as on the compelling evidence of water and microscopic life. Each image is accompanied by a caption that explains in unparalleled detail the abstract patterns and peculiar geology that form this majestic planet. Featuring over 200 spectacular photographs and informative color diagrams, an atlas of the surface and details of the most recent scientific discoveries Mars is the perfect introduction to the Red Planet.

Book Information

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Quercus; 1 edition (June 2, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 162365856X

ISBN-13: 978-1623658564

Product Dimensions: 10.4 x 0.9 x 11.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #804,482 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #74 in [Books > Science & Math > Astronomy & Space Science > Mars](#) #772 in [Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Astronomy & Astrophysics](#) #1072 in [Books > Science & Math > Astronomy & Space Science > Astrophysics & Space Science](#)

Customer Reviews

This is a fabulous book, but not for casual browsing, but rather to savor a huge amount of fascinating material. For those old enough to remember the first Mariner pictures of Mars, this book is like science fiction. There is information and pictures here that could not have been dreamed of only a handful of decades ago. Giles Sparrow has undoubtedly put a lot of effort into this sumptuous volume. The text is measured, up-to-date, knowledgeable, covering virtually every aspect of the planet - literally A to Z stuff. Personally I would have preferred more informative captions in places (with more scale references as a previous reviewer mentions), but of course this would require a lot more research. Rather than a seeming tendency in places to include 'bling' images (and rare ones) which are thin on info, I would have invested more effort into classic images packed with a lot more explanatory data - even at the expense of being speculative. Don't misread me here. This is a book filled with up-to-date images (and text), mainly from orbiters, and enough to more than satisfy the appetite of all interested in this desolate, violent and fascinating world. (See below for PS) It is a visually gorgeous book which comes perilously close to being 'ultimate'. Certainly there is nothing of its kind in print. No one interested in planetary exploration should be without this tome. PS. If I have a quibble, it is that I would have liked more 'Rover' type-photos, the sort of "Postcards from Mars' (Jim Bell) scenes, the sort of groundviews that one not versed in interpreting aerial (false coloured) imagery could relate to... PPS.

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