

SPIRIT AND OPPORTUNITY: THE GREAT SURFACE EXPLORATION OF MARS KEEPS GOING

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Abstract

For over three Earth years, two intrepid robotic explorers, Spirit and Opportunity, have been successfully conducting field geology day after day on Mars at two distinct locations on the surface. Originally designed for a 90-Martian day mission, the rovers have exceeded that requirement by a factor of 12 and show no signs of stopping. As the rovers move, each day becomes a brand new mission with new sights and new geology to explore. Both rovers have made significant discoveries in understanding the Red Planet, but great adventures still lie ahead for each rover.

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