



Destination Mars: New Explorations of the Red Planet

By Rod Pyle

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In the next decade, NASA, by itself and in collaboration with the European Space Agency, is planning a minimum of four separate missions to Mars. Clearly, exciting times are ahead for Mars exploration. This is an insider's look into the amazing projects now being developed here and abroad to visit the legendary red planet. Drawing on his contacts at NASA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the author provides stunning insights into the history of Mars exploration and the difficulties and dangers of traveling there.

After an entertaining survey of the human fascination with Mars over the centuries, the author offers an introduction to the geography, geology, and water processes of the planet. He then briefly describes the many successful missions by NASA and others to that distant world. But failure and frustration also get their due. As the author makes clear, going to Mars is not, and never will be, easy. Later in the book, he describes in detail what each upcoming mission will involve.

In the second half of the book, he offers the reader a glimpse inside the world of Earth-based "Mars analogs," places on Earth where scientists are conducting research in hostile environments that are eerily "Martian." Finally, he constructs a probable scenario of a crewed expedition to Mars, so that readers can see how earlier robotic missions and human Earth simulations will fit together.

All this is punctuated by numerous firsthand interviews with some of the finest Mars explorers of our day, including Stephen Squyres (Mars Exploration Rover), Bruce Murray (former director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory), and Peter Smith (chief of the Mars Phoenix Lander and the upcoming OSIRIS-REx missions). These stellar individuals give us an insider's view of the difficulties and rewards of roaming the red planet.

The author's infectious enthusiasm and firsthand knowledge of the international space industry combine to make a uniquely appealing and accessible book about Mars.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Destination Mars brings to life an extraordinary part of human exploration—the preliminary reconnaissance of the planet of dreams over the last fifty years. Enlivened by interviews with many of the participants, Destination Mars makes you feel as if you are exploring the planet with them."

-Steven J. Dick, Former NASA chief historian

"The enigmatic Red Planet does not easily give up its secrets. Yet Destination Mars takes the reader on a first-class journey to this new world, one that continues to be a magnet for inquisitive scientists and space engineers. This is a superb, fact-filled, up-to-date book that portrays the legacy of spacecraft and personalities—from cheerleaders to unsung heroes—that have opened up the terra incognita that is Mars to extraordinary exploration."

-Leonard David, Space Insider columnist, SPACE.com

"Mars has long held a special fascination for Americans, perhaps it might even be a planet that harbors life. Rod Pyle has written a fine account of this fascination, outlining the history of the robotic space probes sent to the Red Planet and the knowledge gained through these expeditions."

-Roger D. Launius, Senior curator, Division of Space History, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution

"[A]n optimistic, enthusiastic survey of humanity's ongoing duel of wits with our neighbor planet. Interviews with some of the people involved in Mars missions show the thread of curiosity and wonder connecting the Mars exploration projects of the last fifty years. Getting to Mars has been really difficult, but for Rod Pyle the problems just make it more interesting and worthwhile."

-Stephen Fentress, Director, Strasenburgh Planetarium, Rochester Museum & Science Center

About the Author

Rod Pyle is the author of the widely praised books *Destination Moon* and *Missions to the Moon*, as well as the popular audiobook *In Their Own Words: The Space Race*. He has written and produced numerous documentaries for the History Channel and Discovery Communications, including the acclaimed *Modern Marvels: Apollo 11* and *Mars: 100 Years of Discovery*. Pyle has been an assistant professor at the University of La Verne, California, and frequently lectures at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Deborah Mele:

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Now a day folks who Living in the era everywhere everything reachable by connect with the internet and the resources in it can be true or not call for people to be aware of each info they get. How many people to be smart in receiving any information nowadays? Of course the reply is reading a book. Looking at a book can help men and women out of this uncertainty Information specially this Destination Mars: New Explorations of the Red Planet book because this book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the details in this book hundred percent guarantees there is no doubt in it as you know.

Leon Fisher:

Exactly why? Because this Destination Mars: New Explorations of the Red Planet is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will distress you with the secret it inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who write the book in such incredible way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book have got such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

Lisa Yates:

As we know that book is significant thing to add our know-how for everything. By a book we can know everything we want. A book is a set of written, printed, illustrated or maybe blank sheet. Every year ended up being exactly added. This publication Destination Mars: New Explorations of the Red Planet was filled regarding science. Spend your spare time to add your knowledge about your research competence. Some people has several feel when they reading any book. If you know how big benefit of a book, you can really feel enjoy to read a e-book. In the modern era like now, many ways to get book you wanted.

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