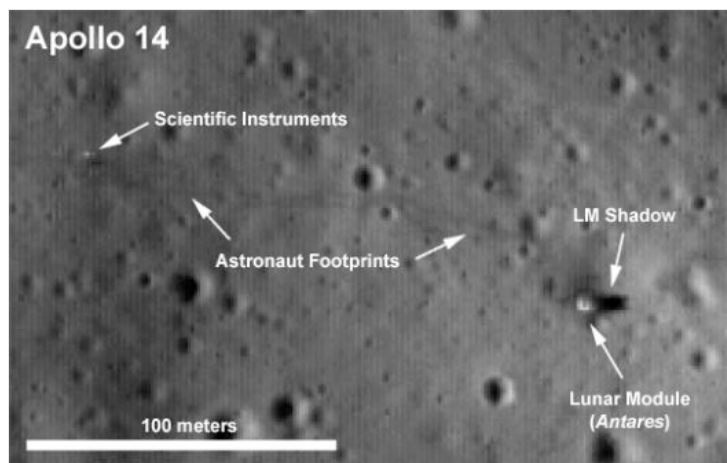


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# Lunar Probe Delivers First Photographs of Old Apollo Landing Sites

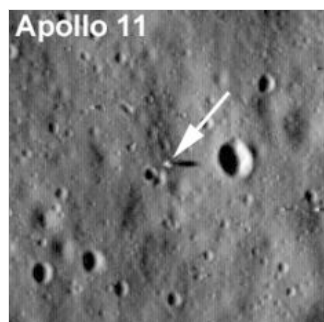
By [Jeremy Hsu](#) Posted 07.17.2009 at 3:00 pm



**Apollo 14 Landing Site:** NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter snapped this image of the Apollo 14 landing site during its lunar tour. *NASA*

Look, it's the Apollo 11 lunar module! And astronaut footprints left by Apollo 14! Well, you can make them out if you squint. NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) has been honing its camera-hound skills.

The lunar probe captured images from five of six Apollo sites between July 11 and 15, after first reaching lunar orbit on June 23.



**Apollo 11 Landing Site:** The Eagle has landed! Apollo 11's lunar module can be seen (squint) in this image taken by NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter. *NASA*

"The LROC team anxiously awaited each image," said LROC principal investigator Mark Robinson of Arizona State University. "We were very interested in getting our first peek at the lunar module descent stages just for the thrill -- and to see how well the cameras had come into focus."

Each image has a resolution of roughly four feet per pixel, with the Apollo relics filling an area of about nine pixels. The long shadows from each Apollo lunar module stretch to almost 20 pixels.

This comes as part of NASA's celebration of 40 years since man first stepped on the moon during the Apollo 11 mission. We recently dug up [10 things](#) you probably didn't know about that momentous occasion.

However, the real fireworks will take place in October, when LRO launches its [probe](#) on a one-way trajectory to crash into the moon.

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## 9 COMMENTS

imfamous

07/17/09 at 3:34 pm

I doubt this is good enough for the skeptics out there that insist we (usa) never landed or stepped foot on the moon. I'm sure these are all just pictures of the "set" NASA built.

[link to this comment](#)

willdabeast

07/17/09 at 4:06 pm

It's true though, that this was all a hoax. I was one of those "engineers" at NASA from 1967 to 1977. At least that's what my spiritual medium told me I was during my previous life. And she never lies.

[link to this comment](#)

Laced713

07/17/09 at 5:54 pm

was also well witnessed. If your gonna spend all that money and effort to send them up there and have the ability to go to the moon why wouldn't you. Seriously someone who really thinks it's a hoax please tell me where were the astronauts really at if they didn't go during the time between launch and return? In orbit? why spend the money and effort to put them in orbit and fake the moon landing when they could actually go to the moon? it wouldn't make sense! They actually went to the moon.

on another side I don't see why we are now doing reconnaissance on the moon for a return mission. I think we would have noticed if anything had changed and it's pretty well mapped out. seems a waste of time and money to do recon. spend that on getting NASA's s\*\*t together and get back there already.

[link to this comment](#)

Laced713

07/17/09 at 8:02 pm

sorry first part of this got cut off somehow

Ok That's it I'm tired of the moon landing conspiracy theorists. Consider this... we had the technology to go to the moon. Hundreds of people watched the launch in person the world watched on t.v. the return of those brave guys was also well witnessed. If your gonna spend all that money and effort to send them up there and have the ability to go to the moon why wouldn't you. Seriously someone who really thinks it's a hoax please tell me where were the astronauts really at if they didn't go during the time between launch and return? In orbit? why spend the money and effort to put them in orbit and fake the moon landing when they could actually go to the moon? it wouldn't make sense! They actually went to the moon.

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[link to this comment](#)

davstalie1.1

07/18/09 at 4:23 am

Fubar critique...

NASA'S POOR IMAGERY-

THE FOLLOWING IS AN ARGUMENT OF WHY WE SHOULD DOUBT NASA'S CREDIBILITY FOR SPACE FLIGHT.

1. We have camera phones.
2. We have web camera's.
3. We have traffic camera's.
4. We have Stop light (issue you a ticket) camera's.
5. We have retina scanners.

6. We have facial recognition.
7. We have 15 mega pixel cameras for cheap.
8. We have infrared cameras to catch criminals.
9. We have home surveillance camera's to protect our home.
10. We have Drone aircraft that shoot missiles with camera's.
11. We have advanced Optic's through out the planet.
12. We have spy satellite camera's many of them. Reading the book in your hand from outer space camera's.
13. We have the Hubble telescope- looking in to outer, outer space.- visions of distant galaxies and beyond.
14. We have that. And NASA- has a lot more- with all of its telescopes.... All advanced Optics, clean crisp photos....detailed....
15. And all NASA can come up with are 'Blurry out of focus pictures that you have to imagine what it is the arrows are pointing to.' -
16. Those photos look like they were taking by a drunken sailor on the back of a camel running at full speed carrying a Polaroid camera.
17. Why are we not seeing the serial number off the space equipment?
18. Why are we not seeing the moon dust on the various parts, like any photo that any of us could do on earth with our cell phone. 'click'.....
19. Really?- fuzzy photos- 40 years later...Is that how NASA treats the citizens of the united states that tell there senator or congressman to vote for or against NASA's Budget....REALLY?....that is a fine 'thank you' from NASA....
20. Think about that...
21. Is it such a big thing to ask to have a few crisp, clear, photos... show details of the equipment and landing sites of the Apollo mission...
22. This isn't about conspiracy- this is about COMPETENCE OF THE SPACE PROGRAM....

Take a real photo- a crisp photo, a photo that looks like you took it with the technologically advanced Optics that we all know NASA has.- It must have...

We should ask the Japanese with its High Definition video to do a fly over of the Apollo landing sites- Why would they not? – they can sell the photos- 4. bucks a pop.

I would pay to see Hi res photos of the Space equipment. – most trekkies, nerds, naturalist, curious, and all patriotic neil Armstrong fans would pay to see High resolution photos...

But wait- We did pay for them. And they are long over due. Here is my receipt.

Give the American public the photos Please...

If you are un able to take a simple photo- are you qualified to fly?

[link to this comment](#)

Cookiees453

07/18/09 at 12:35 pm

[www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/LRO/multimedia/lroimages/lroc\\_20090702\\_a.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/LRO/multimedia/lroimages/lroc_20090702_a.html) has some crisp photos.

The important thing here is, humanity has gone to the moon; whether or not we went to the moon 40 years ago is irrelevant. Research taking photos in space, you'll learn a few things. Having a colony on the moon will help us prepare for a manned Mars mission; we'll get a chance to test out new technology. It'll also be a good place to build a huge telescope, a launching platform for new spacecraft and mining equipment for either the moon or asteroids. Mining an average size asteroid would be very profitable, it would yield years and years of materials such as steel, iron, gold, etc.

[link to this comment](#)



JamesDonVito

07/18/09 at 1:09 pm

Wow, that was quite a rant. America may have it's problems, but the fact that man has left this planet and planted our flag outside of Earth is still pretty amazing.

For a thrilling experience see some great interactive sites of original mission footage put together by Nasa for the anniversary:

<http://fusionfilter.com/?p=1048>

[link to this comment](#)



[PhillnYork](#)

[highdobb](#)

07/19/09 at 12:22 pm

I have always wondered if they aimed Hubble at the landing sites would they would show up? Can anyone out there do the math on this?

[link to this comment](#)

07/19/09 at 4:47 pm

@PhillnYork: The Hubble was designed to take photos of very distant objects. Unfortunately the Hubble cant take a clear picture of anything smaller than 87 meters in diameter on the moons surface (google search.) It's similar to taking a picture using a telephoto lens and trying to photograph a period on a piece of paper on the table in front of you.... Very indiscernible...

[link to this comment](#)

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