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[NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter sends back first images](#)

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by [Matt Burns](#) on July 2, 2009



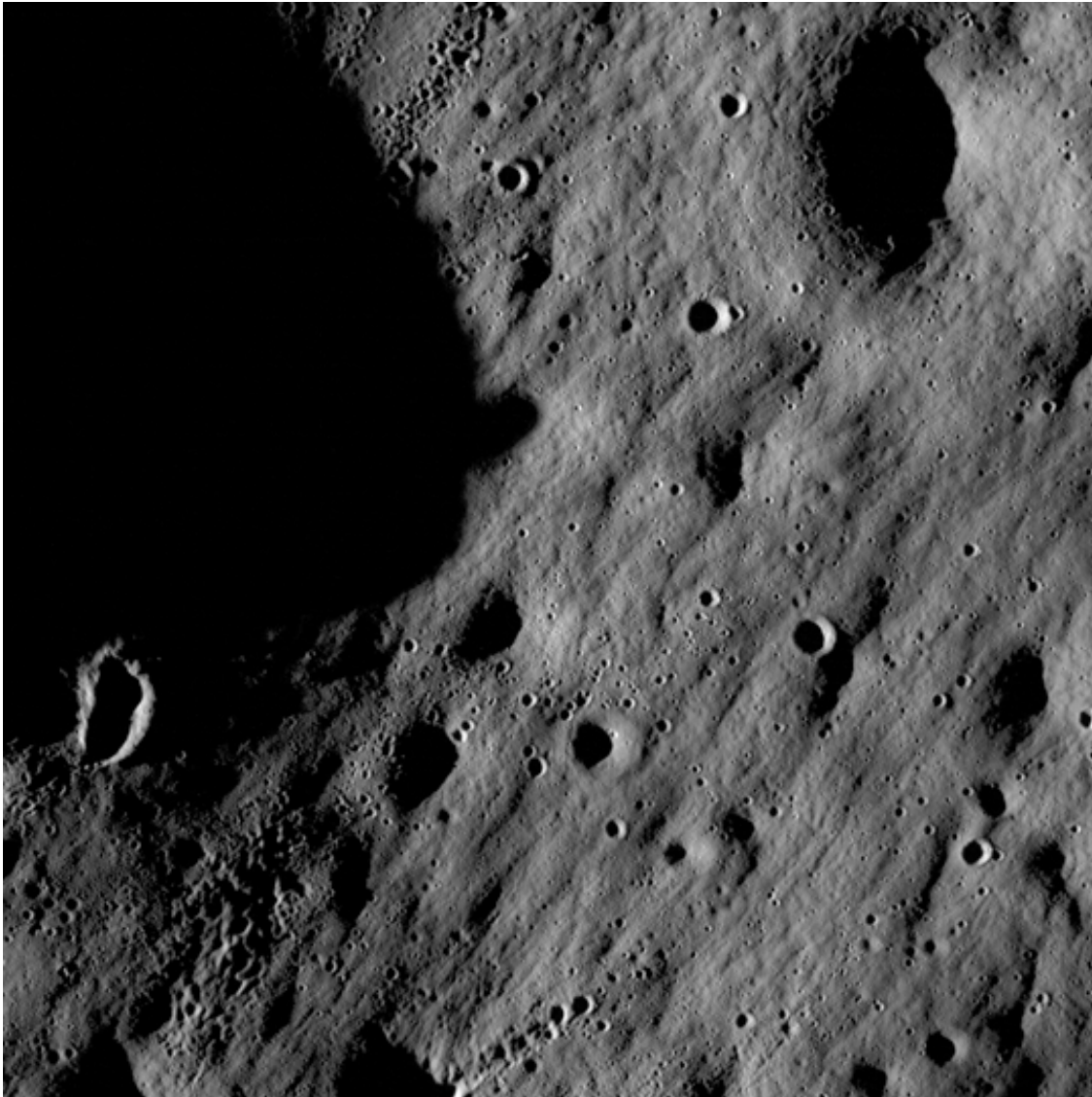
[NASA](#) is gearing up for a trip back to the moon and the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter is one of the first steps. This satellite will orbit the moon at only 50 km and send back high resolution, 3D images of the lunar surface to map out potential landing sites . And yes, it will be able to get clear photos of the Apollo gear left behind, which will no doubt send conspiracy idiots scrambling for more excuses.

[NASA](#),

“Our first images were taken along the moon’s terminator — the dividing line between day and night — making us initially unsure of how they would turn out,” said LROC Principal Investigator Mark Robinson of Arizona State University in Tempe. “Because of the deep shadowing, subtle topography is exaggerated, suggesting a craggy and inhospitable surface. In reality, the area is similar to the region where the Apollo 16 astronauts safely explored in 1972. While these are magnificent in their own right, the main message is that LROC is nearly ready to begin its mission.”

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Comments

- Ankit Gupta - [July 2nd, 2009 at 3:28 pm PDT](#)

Any idea what gear was left behind exactly?

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Matt Burns - [July 2nd, 2009 at 4:02 pm PDT](#)

The landing/launch pad and the rovers.

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Miles - [July 2nd, 2009 at 4:10 pm PDT](#)

Some McDonald's styrofoam containers and an empty can of Coke they threw out the window, like everybody used to do in the late 60's. :)

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Dan - [July 3rd, 2009 at 12:23 am PDT](#)

LOL

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