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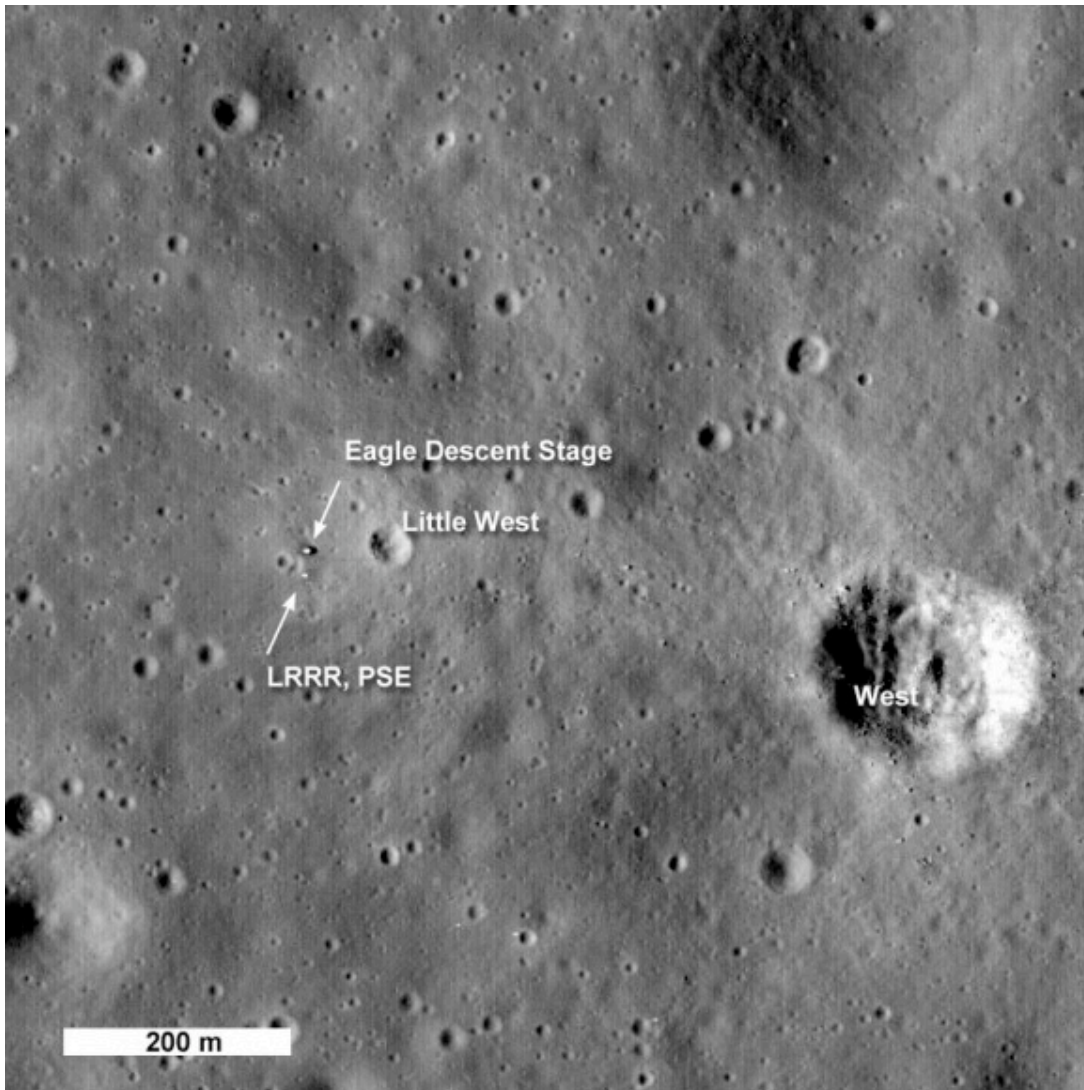
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September 29th, 2009

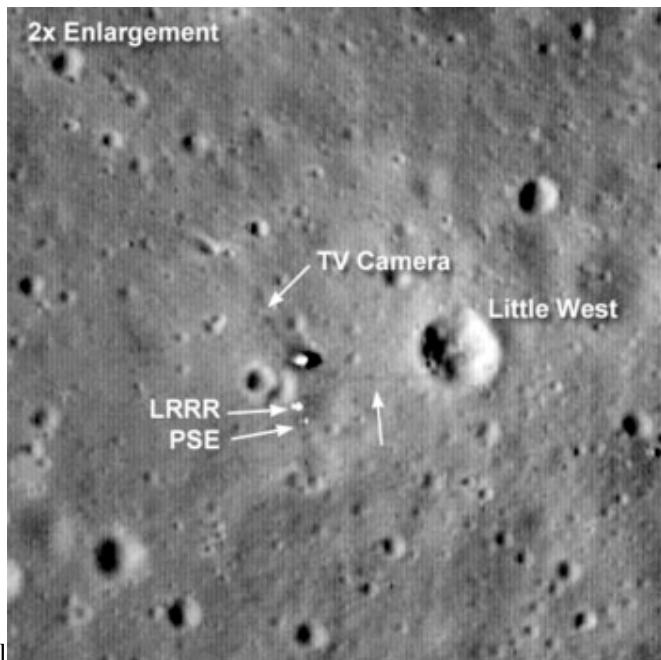
## [LRO Takes Second, Closer Look at Apollo 11 Landing Site](#)

Written by [Nancy Atkinson](#)   [ShareThis](#)

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The [Lunar](#) Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera has taken a second look at the Apollo 11 landing site. These images were taken before LRO reached its science [orbit](#) of 50 km (31 miles) above [the Moon](#), but the lighting is different from the [previous images it took of this region](#), providing more detail and a whole new look at this historic site. This time the [Sun](#) was 28 degrees higher in the sky, making for smaller shadows and bringing out subtle brightness differences on the surface. The look and feel of the site has changed dramatically. See below for a close-up view.



The astronaut path to the TV camera is visible, and you may even be able to see the camera stand (arrow). You can identify two parts of the Early Apollo Science Experiments Package (EASEP) – the Lunar Ranging Retro Reflector (LRRR) and the Passive Seismic Experiment (PSE). Neil Armstrong's tracks to Little West crater (33 m diameter) are also discernible (unlabeled arrow). His quick jaunt provided scientists with their first view into a lunar crater.

Nice going LROC!

*This article was edited on Sept. 30 to correct a mistake about LRO's orbit at the time these images were taken.*

[See our previous article](#) on the first round of LROC's images of various Apollo landing sites.

Source: [LROC](#)

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## 11 Responses to “LRO Takes Second, Closer Look at Apollo 11 Landing Site”

1. *Torbjorn Larsson OM* Says:

[September 29th, 2009 at 1:44 pm](#)

[world class historical site] Awesome! [/world class historical site]

Still awesome.

2. *watchful.stone.guardian* Says:

[September 29th, 2009 at 3:09 pm](#)

Neat to see that all that exploration occurred within the ejecta blanket of Little West Crater as seen by the slightly brighter oval stretching about 150 m to the left and 100 m to the right, up, and down from Little West.

3. *Kevin F.* Says:

[September 29th, 2009 at 5:58 pm](#)

I can post now! Thanks, Universe Today!

4. *Jon Hanford* Says:

[September 30th, 2009 at 1:27 am](#)

I thoroughly agree with Torbjorn Larsson OM. The current images of the site are the among the best I've seen since July, 1969 😊 Go, go LRO. BTW, the full-resolution strip of the area can be found at: [http://wms.lroc.asu.edu/lroc\\_browse/view/M104362199R](http://wms.lroc.asu.edu/lroc_browse/view/M104362199R) . Besides the boulder field Neil Armstrong maneuvered around, quite a few large ejecta boulders can be seen in and around crater West.

5. *2amazing* Says:

[September 30th, 2009 at 8:24 am](#)

This picture was taken on August 8 orbit 540, when the LRO was not in his lower orbit around Moon. The most recent photo was released September 5 from orbit 880, and this is not the lower orbit. On Sept. 16, the LRO reached lower orbit 1012.

<http://lroc.sese.asu.edu/data/pr/tiff/?C=M;O=D> all pictures that have been released.

On the basis of the filename you can calculate the date that the photo was taken.

File Name (M1) 04362199 (. TIF) / (60 \* 60 \* 24) = 50.48841435

Lauchdate 18-06-09 14:32:12 + 50.48841435 = 8-08-09 2:15:31

6. *RUF* Says:

[September 30th, 2009 at 8:58 am](#)

Is Little West the "stadium sized crater full of boulders" that Apollo XI had to fly over before landing?

7. *Nancy Atkinson* Says:

[September 30th, 2009 at 9:42 am](#)

2amazing — you are correct and I was wrong about LRO's orbit at the time these images were taken. The article has been corrected.

Thanks,  
Nancy

8. *Aqua* Says:

[September 30th, 2009 at 4:52 pm](#)

There seems to be a slight 'lightening' in the surface albedo near the landing site. Could this have

been caused by the landers exhaust as it neared the surface?

9. *theCase* Says:

[September 30th, 2009 at 7:57 pm](#)

Where in the long strip photo is this area?

I find it infuriating that they (LRO Image site) start off with a nice close up then a jump to a 8 mile swath..... Ah, well, I'm still loving the pics!

10. *2amazing* Says:

[October 1st, 2009 at 9:02 am](#)

the case

Here an example:

That's where you have to zoom in to to find Eagle.

<http://twitpic.com/jn0i4/full>

note: all released images has a very low resolution

11. *theCase* Says:

[October 1st, 2009 at 7:13 pm](#)

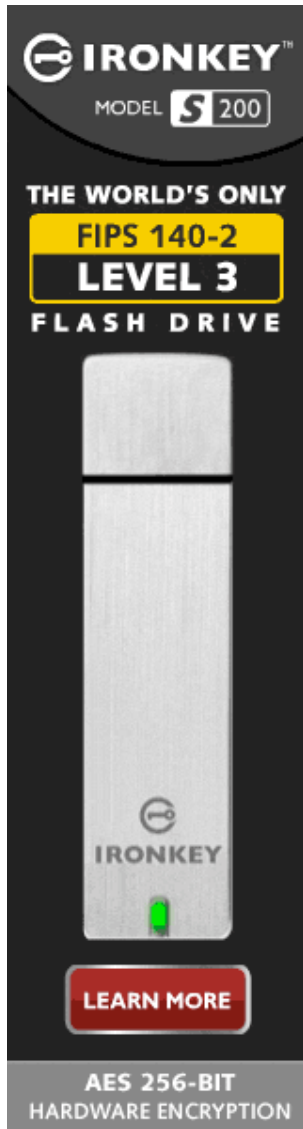
2amazing Thanks! that helps a lot.

Just wanted to see the whole site in context of what I've read about the final seconds of the landing. (just read the book "Rocket Men")...

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