



PLUTO IN TRUE COLOR



Credit: NASA/Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory/Southwest Research Institute

The New Horizons spacecraft caught this amazing image of Pluto's big "heart" the day before its closest flyby of Pluto. The heart is about 1,000 miles (1,600 km) across at its widest point.

The heart's left side is a plain covered with nitrogen ice; the right side is composed of highlands and nitrogen-rich glaciers.

The spacecraft's LORRI imager provided the high-resolution data, and the Ball-built Ralph imager provided the color data.

July 13, 2015



CHARON IN ENHANCED COLOR



Credit: NASA/Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory/Southwest Research Institute

New Horizons revealed surprising features on Charon, Pluto's largest moon. The canyon "belt" near its equator stretches more than 1,000 miles (1,600 km) across its face and probably around its far side as well.

Some astronomers think Charon and Pluto are a double planet system, because Charon is so large — almost half the size of Pluto.

The spacecraft's LORRI imager provided the high-resolution data, and the Ball-built Ralph imager provided the color data.

July 14, 2015



ARROKOTH IN ENHANCED COLOR



Credit: NASA/Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory/Southwest Research Institute/Roman Tkachenko

After its Pluto flyby, New Horizons flew deeper into the Kuiper Belt to its oldest, most distant target—a strangely shaped object named Arrokoth.

Scientists think this Kuiper Belt object formed from two separate bodies that gently merged into one. It's about 20 miles (32 km) across.

The spacecraft's LORRI imager provided the high-resolution data, and the Ball-built Ralph imager provided the color data.

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