

Moon Surface Elevation

Hemispherical maps of Lunar surface topography showing near and far sides of the Moon. The Moon's far side is far more heavily cratered than the near side. This is largely because the near side's thinner crust allowed ancient volcanic eruptions to flood large basins with lava, smoothing over impact scars and creating the dark "maria". The far side's thicker crust prevented this resurfacing, leaving its ancient craters exposed and preserved for billions of years.

This digital elevation model (DEM) is based on data from the Lunar Orbiter Laser Altimeter (LOLA; Smith et al., 2010), an instrument on the National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA) Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) spacecraft (Tooley et al., 2010).

The Scientific colour map '[turku](#)' is used to represent the data accurately and to all readers.

- Creator: [Fabio Crameri](#)
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