

- Mission Name: Mars 2020
- Rover Name: Perseverance
- Main Job: The Perseverance rover will seek signs of ancient life and collect rock and soil samples for possible return to Earth.
- Launch: July 30, 2020, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida
- Landed: Feb. 18, 2021
- Landing Site: Jezero Crater, Mars
- Mission Duration: At least one Mars year (about 687 Earth days)
- Tech Demo: The Mars Helicopter is a technology demonstration, hitching a ride on the Perseverance rover.

The Mars 2020/Perseverance rover is designed to better understand the geology of Mars and seek signs of ancient life. The mission will collect and store a set of rock and soil samples that could be returned to Earth in the future. It will also test new technology to benefit future robotic and human exploration of Mars.

Mission timeline:

- Launch in July-August 2020 from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida.
- Launching on a ULA Atlas 541 procured under NASA's Launch Services Program.
- Land on Mars on February 18, 2021 at the site of an ancient river delta in a lake that once filled Jezero Crater.
- Spend at least one Mars year (two Earth years) exploring the landing site region.

Objectives for the mission:

- Assess ancient habitability
- Seek signs of ancient life, particularly in special rocks known to preserve signs of life over time
- Gather rock and soil samples that could be returned to Earth by a future NASA mission
- Explore a geologically diverse landing site
- Demonstrate technology for future robotic and human exploration