

Pluto Revealed: First results from the historic 1st fly-by space mission.

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On July 14, 2015, after a 9.5 year trek across the solar system, NASA's New Horizons spacecraft successfully flew by the dwarf planet Pluto and its system of moons, taking imagery, spectra and in-situ particle data. In this internet-information age, this historic first fly-by was shared across planet Earth, everyone witnessing first-hand the transformation of distant points of light into real worlds. The New Horizons dataset has become an invaluable first glimpse into the outer Third Zone of the Solar System. Pluto has revealed itself to be a complex, beautiful place, with a variety of geophysical and surface-atmosphere interactions. Charon has been unmasked; its surface features implying a complicated, enigmatic history. The smaller moons, origins still unknown, are uniquely different in their own right. This presentation summarizes NASA's New Horizons mission and its early science results, and touches on the future of further exploring the outer Third Zone.