



SAINTE-ROSE

Lunar Mars Analogue Site



Located in Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean, the tropical territory of Sainte-Rose is the most eastwards community of the French Republic and of the European Union. It extends over more than 25 km from North to South, and from sea level to a 2600 m altitude at the summit caldeira of the Piton de La Fournaise active volcano. Most of the population of 6700 inhabitants live from cultivating sugar cane, but Sainte-Rose also features a small hydroelectric power plant, a windmill power farm and the largest photovoltaic powerplant in France. Plans are currently under development to make electricity by using Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion.

Did you know that ...

- * A dried lychee fruit grown in Sainte-Rose and specially prepared for space flight is currently orbiting the Earth on board of Bigelow's Genesis-2 spacecraft ?
- * The City of Sainte-Rose was one of the sponsors of Sputnik-40-Years, a scale replica of Sputnik-1, and the first high-school satellite in the world, launched in 1997 ?
- * In January 2006, NASA had temporarily installed in Sainte-Rose its ultimate tracking station for the launch of the New Horizons deep space probe, en route towards Pluto ?

The Sainte-Rose LUNAR MARS Analogue Site

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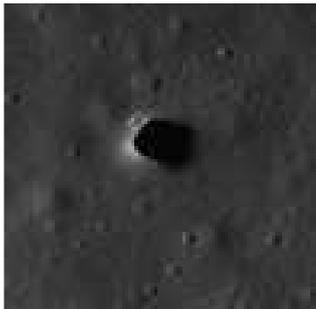
One of the most resembling volcanoes on the Earth :

Piton de la Fournaise ? or Olympus Mons ?

A 7-km high volcano on a hot spot of Planet Earth, Piton de La Fournaise resembles in many respects Olympus Mons and other volcanoes found on Planet Mars. With its “Plain of Sands”, its Moon-like volcanic hills and large lava tubes, Sainte-Rose offers number of analogue sites for probing future Moon and Mars exploration.



Moon lava tube ?



Left : the opening of a lava tube on the Moon (Selene, LRO...)

Right : a large lava cave under Piton de La Fournaise in Sainte Rose, Reunion Island



Sainte-Rose is set to welcome Lunar and Mars planetary researchers with accommodation and restaurants and gorgeous environments and Lunar Mars Analogue Sites.

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Guy Pignolet, a citizen of Sainte-Rose is the local Scientific Adviser for the activities of the Sainte-Rose Lunar Mars Analogue Site in La Reunion. A retired engineer from the French Space Agency Cnes where he was in charge of scouting for future projects, Guy Pignolet had also been appointed as a chairman of the Education Committee of the IAF, the International Astronautical Federation.

