

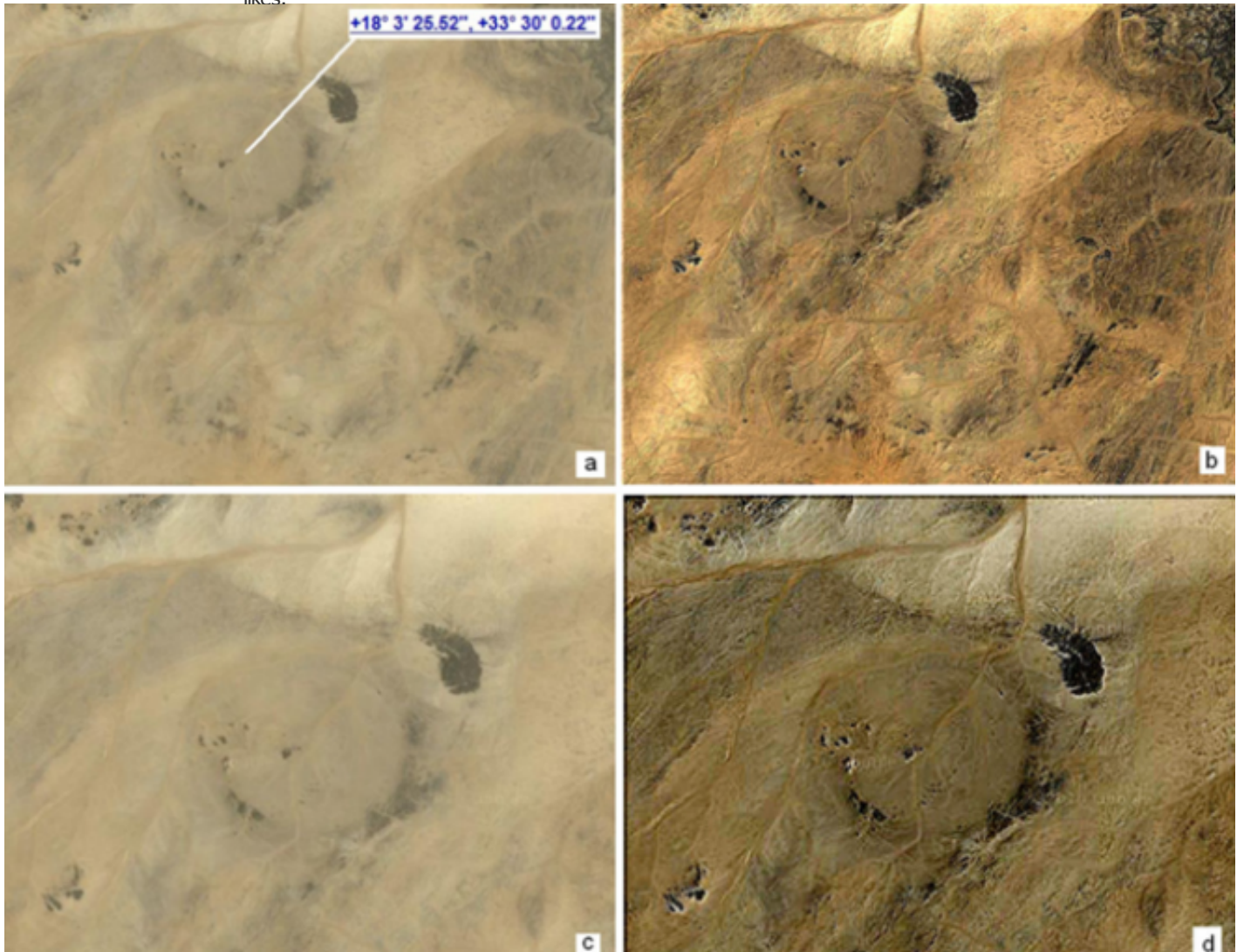
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# Asteroid Crater Hunting From Your Home

By [Jess McNally](#)[Email Author](#)

August 10, 2010 |

4:26 pm |

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Just days after a Google Earth–aided discovery of a meteor impact was [announced in \*Science\*](#), yet another crater has been found using Google Maps and open-access software. The age of

armchair crater hunting has arrived.

Physicist Amelia Sparavigna of Politecnico di Torino in Italy found a 6-mile-wide crater in the Bayuda desert in Sudan using Google Maps, a free astronomical image-processing program she helped develop called *AstroFracTool*, and open source image-processing tool GIMP. The work appeared on *ArXiv* Aug. 3.

While no one has gone to the Bayuda crater site to confirm that it was formed by a meteor impact, the discovery demonstrates that with freely available software and a lot of spare time, anyone can become part of the search for craters.

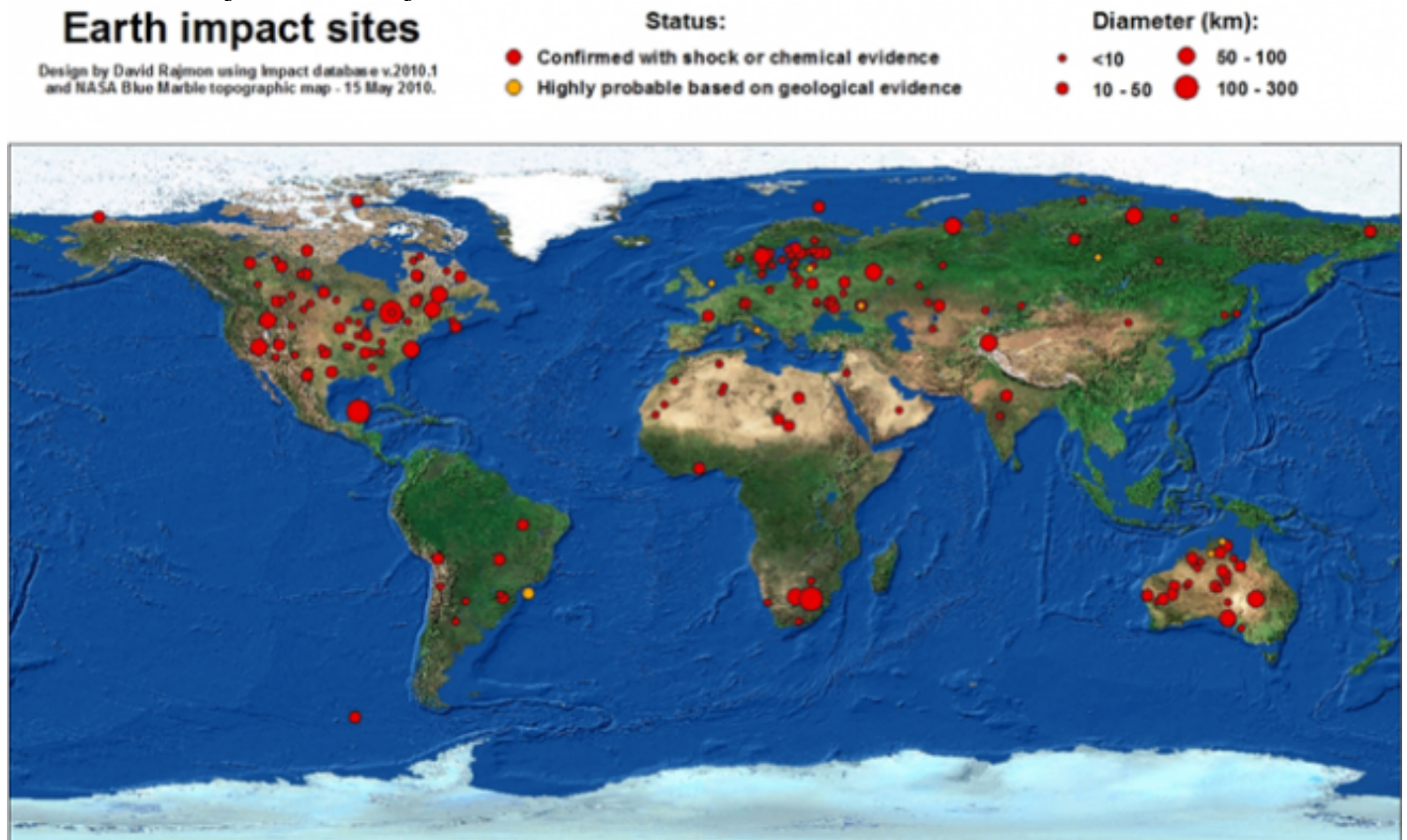
As of today, there are about 175 confirmed [craters on Earth](#) caused by the impact of material from space, according to the [Impact Database](#) maintained by geologist David Rajmon.

Most of the documented impacts are in North America and Western Europe. Either space objects prefer to hit those regions, or the rest of the planet is mostly unexplored.

The best place to look for impacts is in desert regions, where the craters are better preserved. If you're ready to join the search, the Impact Database website includes a detailed description of [how to contribute](#).

Pointers include downloading Google Earth, searching for circular features, and remembering that most circular features on earth are not from the impact of space objects.

Let us know if you have any luck!



### See Also:

[Meteor Crater Discovered With Google Earth](#)

[Wednesday's Near-Earth Asteroid Caught on Film](#)

[How to Defend Earth Against an Asteroid Strike](#)

[Earth to Get Close Shave Wednesday From Newly Discovered Asteroid ...](#)

[Asteroid Impact Craters on Earth as Seen From Space](#)

*Image: 1) Images A and C show the Bayuda desert crater images obtained directly from Google Maps, Images B and D have been processed with AstroFracTool and GIMP/ Amelia Sparavigna 2) Impact Database/David Rajmon.*

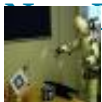
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**motaspo**

If you want something that's more real. How about that **Asteroid with the size of Texas with a chance to hit earth** on 2024?

08/11/2010 07:12 AM

Like



**Taiwanscw**

I found 3 UFOs in Area S4, inside Area 51 on Google map and not one website other than my blogs ever mentioned it. Geek up folks. Check out my videos at Youtube. Search my name "TaiwanSCW." Really guys, whats up with looking for craters when there is Alien Tech out there?

08/11/2010 05:29 AM

Like



**waynep7122**

when google earth first showed the sea floor data i spotted what looks like an impact creator off the coast of alaska... at 56.12'33.45"N 139.17'22.50"W the depression is circular and 18 miles wide... clearly visible in google maps or google earth... most of the

experts have refused to even look it... one site refusing to accept google map/earth locations..

there are few things that could cause something that large on the sea floor.. 3000 feet deep in that area.. an impact.. or an underwater thermonuclear bomb test..

if you cannot find it.. perhaps the magazine staff can post a image of it..

08/10/2010 09:47 PM

Like



**Shootist**

I know there is nothing to stop a bolide from striking in Volcanic terrain, however this crater looks suspiciously like several other "craters" in the immediate vicinity.

08/10/2010 08:04 PM

Like



**PeterBrady**

Interesting point re: France. According to History Channel, "Some scientists and religious scholars agree that..." when Jesus comes back to earth to start world wars and give the non-believers genital warts for having naughty thoughts about their wife's sister (by their account, any day now), Paris is also one of the first places that gets nuked too. It seems God hates France even more than Americans do.

08/10/2010 06:42 PM

Like



**countzero**

I think it's a known fact that every asteroid hits Paris/France. Mostly next to the Eiffel Tower. A good point to start your hunt for impact craters.

08/10/2010 03:12 PM

Like



**yazah**

"Most of the documented impacts are in North America and Western Europe. Either space objects prefer to hit those regions, or there the rest of the planet is mostly unexplored."

Actually, after a detailed analysis of Hollywood documentaries, such as Armageddon and Deep Impact (as well as the histories of many other disasters and alien invasions, such as Independence Day and the recent release simply called "2012"), I can confirm that there is a very high propensity for these evens to occur in North America,

especially in close proximity to famous landmarks.

08/10/2010 02:49 PM

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