

Close Flyby Opens Pandora's Box

Cassini 's best close-up of the "shepherd moon" Pandora was taken on December 18, 2016. Pandora's average size is 52 miles (84 kilometers) across and it orbits Saturn just outside the narrow F ring.

This potato-shaped moon has a fine coating of dust-size icy particles that softens its craters. Pandora is called a "shepherd moon" because its gravity constantly repositions particles in the F ring.

Interesting grooves and ridges are seen on the moon's surface.

Image scale is 787 feet (240 meters) per pixel. This resolution is 3 times better than previous images of Pandora.

