



Successful Missions to the Lunar Surface

Nearside = 27

Impactors

Luna 2

Ranger 6, 7, 8, & 9

LCROSS

Moon Impact Probe

Landers

Luna 9, 13, & 23

Surveyor 1, 3, 5, 6, & 7

Landers with rovers

Luna 17 & 21

Chang'e 3

Landers with Sample Return

Apollo 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, & 17

Luna 16, 20, & 24

Farside = 0

Unexplored Territory

As of 2016



Lunar Surface Missions - Time for the Farside

Several countries have successfully explored the lunar nearside, which allows mission specialists on Earth to communicate directly with a spacecraft on the lunar surface.

We have not yet addressed the challenge of landing on the lunar farside, which is hidden from view of the Earth.

Thus, over half of the lunar surface is completely unexplored.

A global landing site study concluded the highest-priority landing sites are on the lunar farside. Those sites include the Schrödinger impact basin, which is within the larger South Pole-Aitken basin, in the southern farside hemisphere of the Moon.

It is time to explore the unknown territories of the lunar farside.