

On a clear day.... Nasa reveals mesmerising 'blue marble' images of Earth

By [Daily Mail Reporter](#)

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These spectacular 'blue marble' images are the most detailed views of Earth to date.

Using a collection of satellite images, scientists painstakingly stitched together months of observations to create these montages which show the surface of the continents and oceans in stunning detail.



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This mesmerising view of Earth is a montage of images taken by the Terra satellite orbiting 435miles above the planet's surface

Much of the imagery came from a space camera onboard the Nasa satellite Terra, which is orbiting 435miles above the Earth's surface.

A spokesman from the Nasa Goddard Space Flight Center, which released the pictures, said: 'These are spectacular "blue marble" images, which show the beauty of our small planet.'

The two pictures show opposite sides of Earth. One reveals the entire North American continent, Central America, the northern half of South America, Greenland and the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, in one perfect shot.

The other highlights most of Europe, Africa and Asia. However, both northern Europe and Australia are just out of the picture.

Our planet's surface covers 197 million square miles with 57 million square miles of land and the rest as water.



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India takes centre stage here with the vast continent of Africa curving away to the left. Images were taken every eight days to reveal land surface that might otherwise be obscured by cloud

The land and coastal ocean portions of the images are based on surface observations collected from June through September 2001 and combined every eight days to compensate for clouds that might block the sensor's view of the surface on any single day.

Nasa has been photographing the Earth from space since the first camera equipped satellites were launched

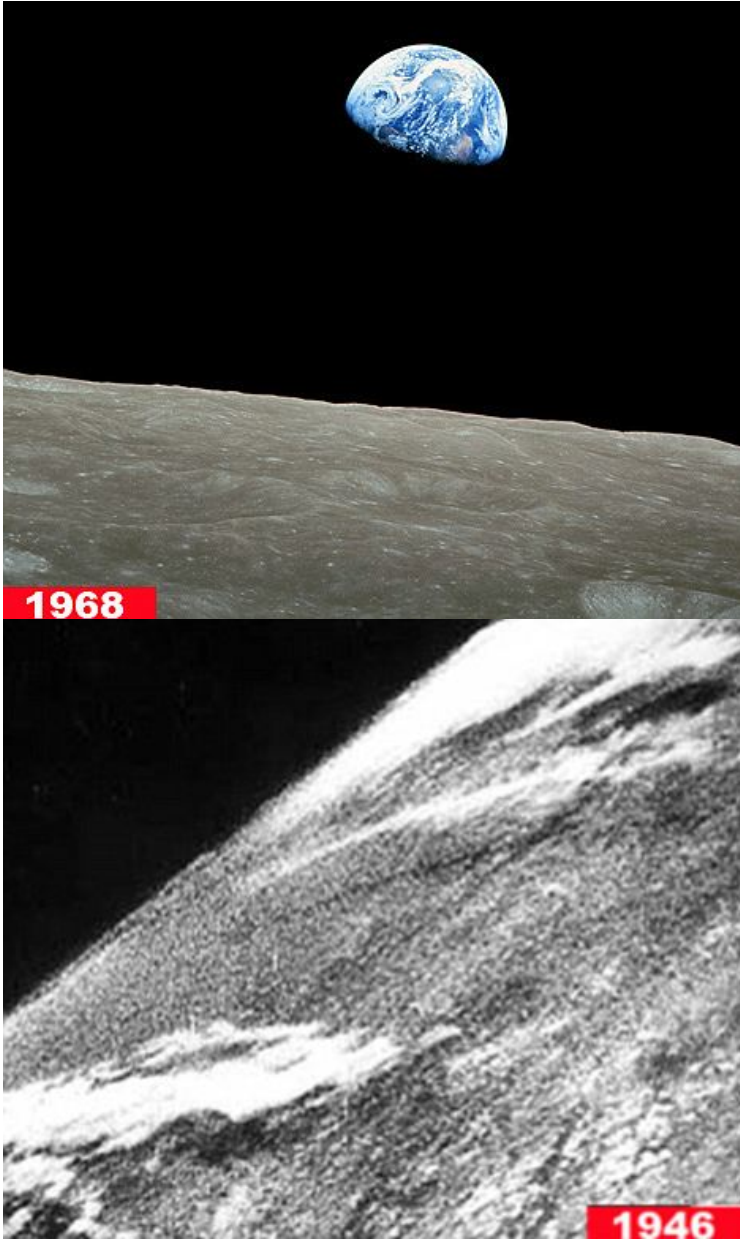
into space in the early 1960's.

Since then the space agency has been compiling images of our home planet year on year, with the most iconic image being the famous 'Blue Marble' photograph taken by the astronauts of Apollo 17 in 1972.



1972

This 'Blue Marble' image was taken by Apollo 17 astronauts on December 7, 1972. With the Sun behind them, the Earth had the appearance of a marble, hence the name



'Earthrise' was taken in 1968 by astronaut William Anders during the Apollo 8 mission, which was the first manned voyage to orbit the Moon. The image (right) from October 24, 1946, was taken at an altitude of 65 miles by a 35mm camera within a V-2 missile and showed the first pictures of Earth as seen from space. The missile which had been taken from the Germans at the end of World War II and was launched in the New Mexico desert

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Such a beautiful and diverse planet from afar it's too bad that we the inhabitants, fellow voyagers if you will, can't get along better than we are doing.

- Vladimir Wilhousky, Hampton N.H., 04/3/2010 15:48

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That first image is the exact same image that shipped with my iMAC computer back in 2007 as a desktop background. The angle and cloud cover patterns are exactly the same. Are they saying these are new images just released?

- Mike, Springfield, MO, USA, 04/3/2010 14:03

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David, not sure which clouds are repeating, but it says in the description that the images were created by "stitching together" multiple images, so it is almost certain that none of them represent a true "snapshot" of Earth at any one instant, but rather a composite of images taken at different times. So if clouds moved and were captured in two different images, you'd see a repeat I guess.

- Jim Bob, Anytown, USA, 04/3/2010 14:02

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As I look at these pictures I believe that this beautiful planet was designed and mankind in all probability will never know for what reason. If it was to experiment on how we as humans can be trusted, we may have failed the test.

- Richard, America, 04/3/2010 13:55

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In the first image, you can see a repeat of the cloud cover, why?

- David Kyle, Pasadena USA, 04/3/2010 12:00

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"Keep talking. The astronauts that took the pictures of earth from Apollo 8 read from Genesis, and thanked You-Know-Who. Pascal, who developed calculus and the science of probability, said that God cannot be proven nor disproven, therefore God is 50%-50%. He went into the clergy, since FAITH drives exploration."

- Kelley Clond

I read this and went "Oh my G-d! Someone else that understands "Pascal's wager" Amazing first person I have known yet to know it!

- Kitty in Alaska, Anchorage, 04/3/2010 09:47

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