



## **Harratt Lunayyir Lava Field**

### **Saudi Arabia**

In northwestern Saudi Arabia lies a field of volcanic lava. Known as Harratt Lunayyir, the lava field contains some 50 cones from volcanic eruptions over the past 10,000 years. The Terra satellite captured this false-color image in October 2006. Old lava flows appear as irregular, dark stains on an otherwise light-colored landscape. Like ink on an uneven surface, the lava has formed rivulets of rock that flow out in all directions.

Although one of the volcanic cones may have erupted as recently as the 10th century CE, scientists long believed the region to be geologically quiet until a seismic swarm and the opening of a crevice in 2009 suggested otherwise. The lava field Harratt Lunayyir lies about 200 kilometers (120 miles) from the tectonic spreading center under the Red Sea; magma can rise along the margins of such areas.