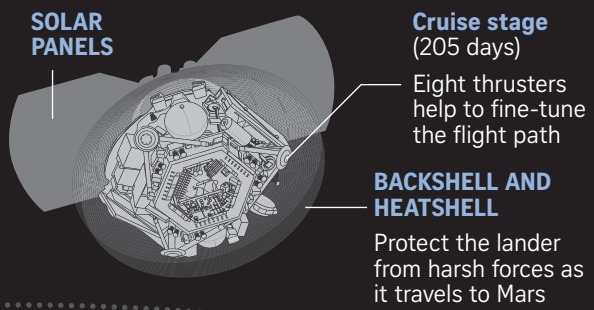


InSight Mars landing

On reaching the Martian atmosphere, at about 128 km above the surface, the spacecraft begins its six-minute entry, descent and landing phase

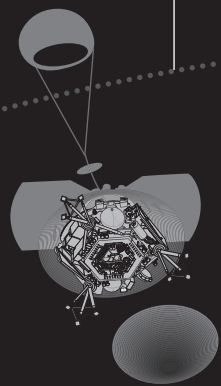


Cruise stage
(205 days)

Eight thrusters help to fine-tune the flight path

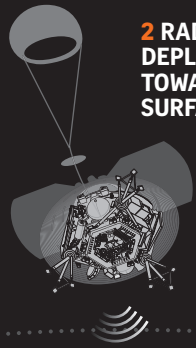
BACKSHELL AND HEATSHIELD

Protect the lander from harsh forces as it travels to Mars



1 PARACHUTE DESCENT

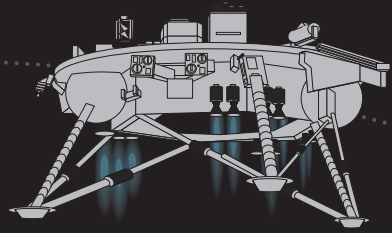
Heatshell jettisons, lander extends three shock-absorbing legs



2 RADAR DEPLOYED TOWARDS SURFACE

3 POWERED DESCENT

- Backshell separates and 12 descent engines power on to slow down for landing
- Onboard guidance software slows down the spacecraft until touchdown

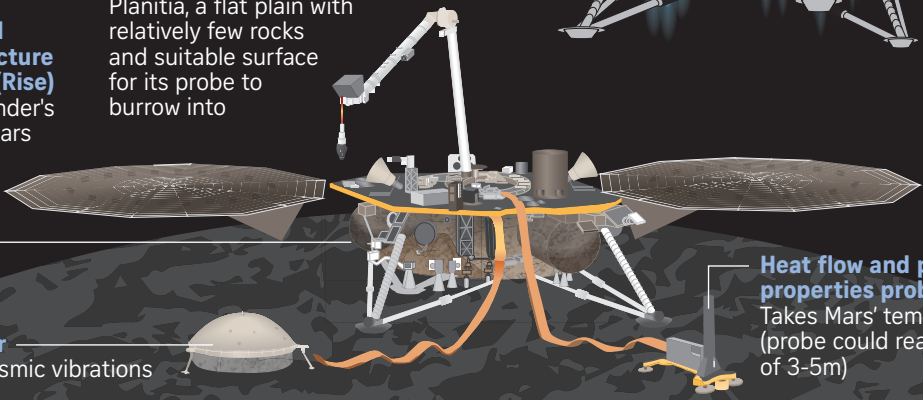


4 LANDING

InSight lands at Elysium Planitia, a flat plain with relatively few rocks and suitable surface for its probe to burrow into

Rotation and interior structure experiment (Rise)

Tracks the lander's location as Mars rotates



Seismometer

Measures seismic vibrations

Heat flow and physical properties probe

Takes Mars' temperature (probe could reach depth of 3-5m)