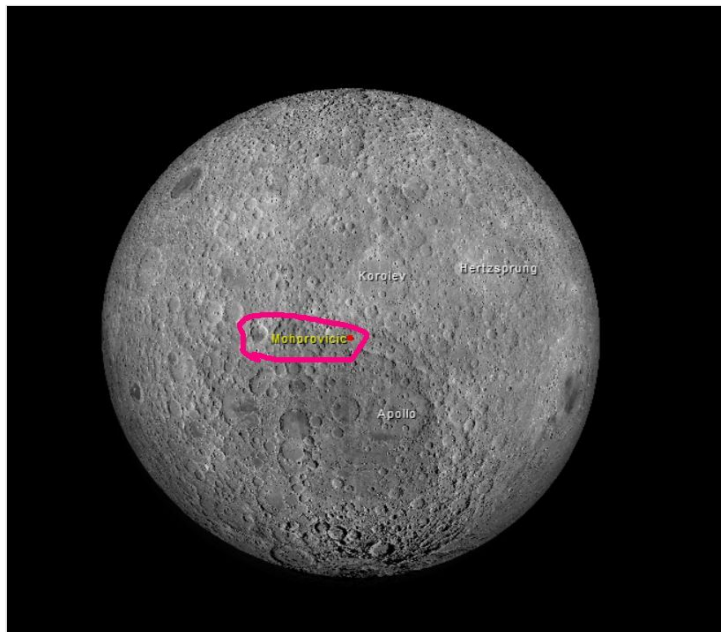


# Andrija Mohorovičić

Andrija Mohorovičić (23 January 1857 – 18 December 1936) was a Croatian geophysicist. He is best known for the eponymous Mohorovičić discontinuity and is considered as one of the founders of modern seismology.

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In his mid-forties by starting research from scratch in a new, almost nonexistent field in his country, to subsequently achieve such an international reputation. The reason for this dramatic change is not known—one can only speculate that intense seismic activity around the Croatian capital in the late 19th century ignited the spark in his curious mind. The formal background was also set, as an Earthquake Committee of the Yugoslav Academy was established in 1880 when Zagreb was devastated by a large earthquake, and Mohorovičić later became actively involved. He founded the Zagreb seismological station in 1906, when he installed the Vicentini-Konkoly seismograph in the basement of the Meteorological Observatory (and on seismogram number 9 he recorded the great San Francisco earthquake!). Soon he realized that better instruments were needed, and he purchased Wiechert horizontal seismographs, which became operational in 1908 and 1909. He wrote at the time, “with this we are on the level with all the better observatories in Central Europe.”



## Mohorovičić crater

Size:

Dimension: 51.0x51.0Km / 30.0x30.0Mi

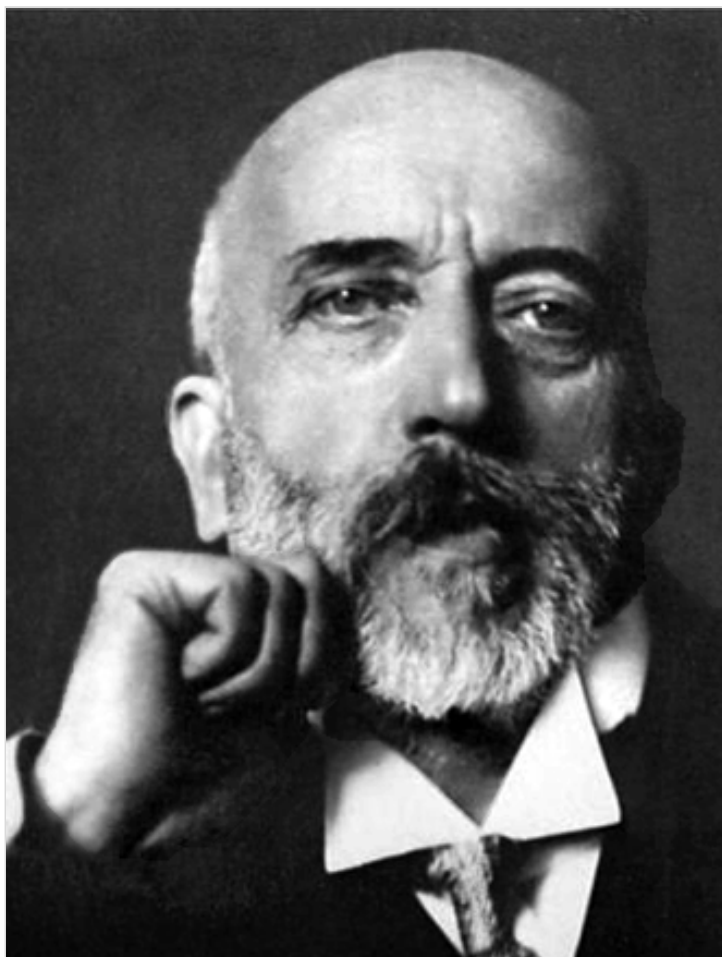
Position:

Longitude: 164.832° West

Latitude: 18.730° South

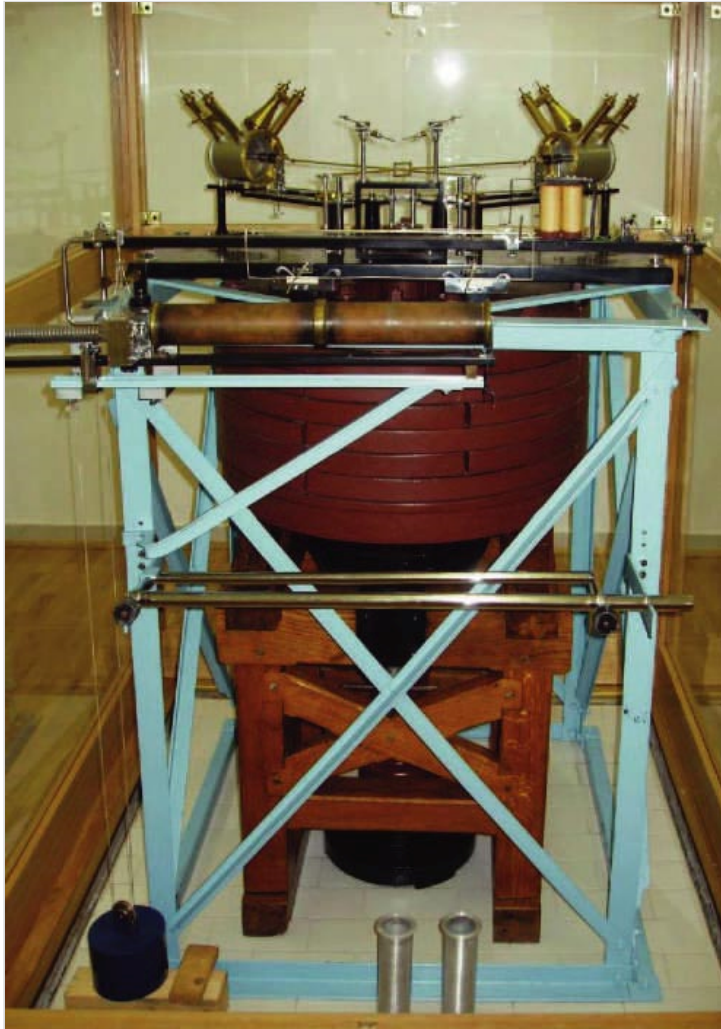
Side: Farside

Quadrant: North-West



**Andrija Mohorovičić, a world-renowned seismologist and the greatest Croatian scientist of all time was born on 23 January 1857 in Volosko near Rijeka, Croatia.**

**“with this we are on the level with all the better observatories in Central Europe.”**



## **Andrija Mohorovičić**

is mostly associated with the discovery of the crust-mantle boundary, his other achievements in seismology, as well as those in other geophysical disciplines, certainly deserve to be remembered. Mohorovičić enrolled in Prague University to study mathematics and physics in 1875. The very solid

foundations in science that he obtained from professors such as Ernst Mach and Heinrich Durège are clearly reflected in his later work and scientific attitude. After graduation he taught at high schools in Zagreb and Osijek and at the Nautical School in Bakar. In 1892 he became the director of the Meteorological Observatory in Zagreb. The following year Mohorovičić obtained the doctorate of philosophy at Zagreb University, where he was later elected an adjunct associate university professor to teach courses on geophysics and astronomy



## **Focused on meteorology**

At the beginning of his career Mohorovičić focused on meteorology. His scientific interests lay in the explanation of various meteorological phenomena—atmospheric dynamics and observations of rare events. He also studied the climate of Zagreb and the decay of temperature with altitude. Looking to learn more about the atmospheric circulation but lacking proper instruments, he built his own nephoscope, a camera obscura-like instrument for observation of clouds. These observations formed the basis for his dissertation. As only recently rediscovered, Mohorovičić was the first person to describe atmospheric rotors with a horizontal axis, which he observed during bora-wind episodes in the northern Adriatic. The paper about it appeared in 1889 in one of the leading meteorological journals of the time and was immediately translated into English

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