

Space Tourism

If you want to leave the Earth's atmosphere, you don't necessarily have to be an astronaut. There are also space tourists—and that makes Emma and Louis quite curious.

The American Dennis Tito was the first tourist to go into space. He visited in 2001. The first female spaceflight participant to go was Anousheh Ansari, an Iranian American electrical engineer, in 2006.



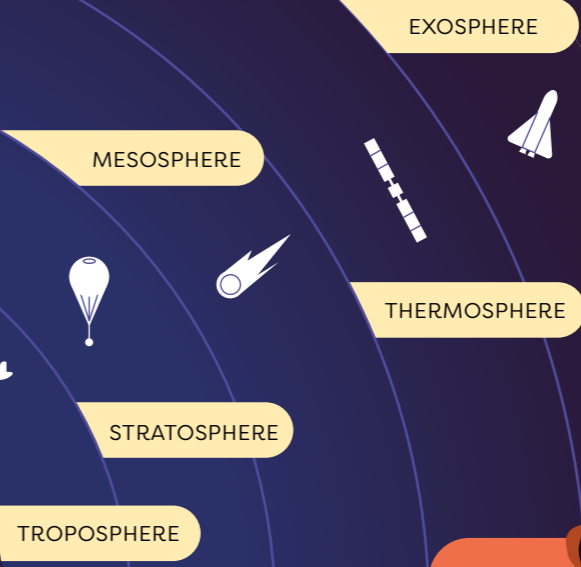
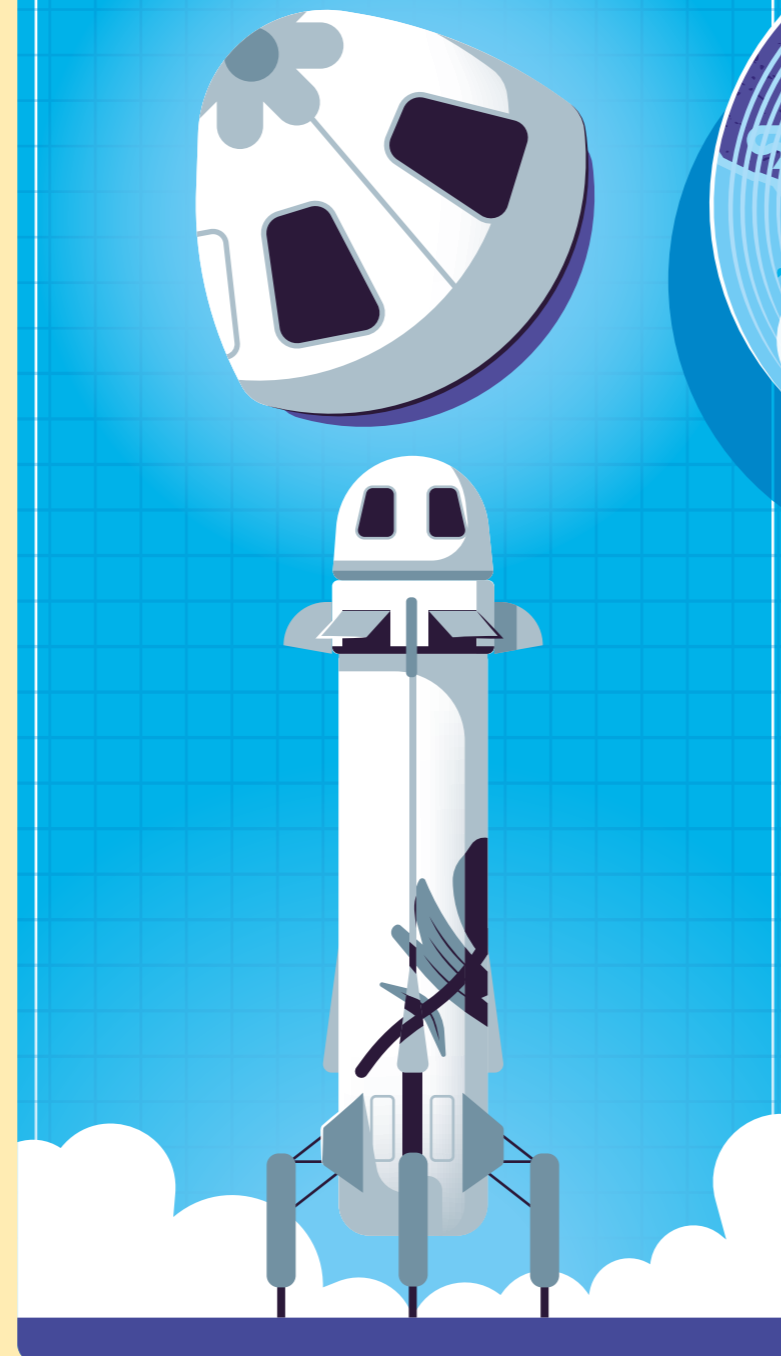
The first tourists traveled on the Russian spacecraft **Soyuz** to the ISS and generally stayed there for one or two weeks.

Prospective tourists must undergo intensive training before they visit the ISS. For example, they have to learn how to communicate with the control center on Earth, how to put on a space suit, and what to do in an emergency.

The New Shepard

The US space flight system New Shepard consists of a space capsule and a carrier rocket. Up to six people can travel into space in it. At an altitude of around 25 miles (40 kilometers), the capsule detaches and flies on to an altitude of around 62 miles (100 kilometers)—the Kármán line. Once there, it orbits briefly in weightlessness before landing back on Earth with the help of a parachute. The flight takes around 11 minutes in total.

In 2021, the New Shepard carried people into space for the first time. One of the four who went was 82-year-old American Wally Funk. This was a big dream come true for her: Funk had trained to be an astronaut in 1961 and applied to NASA several times, but she had never made it into space in all those years.



Seeing the Earth from space is undoubtedly a unique experience. But at the same time, it's important that we think about the climate and the environment, and that we ask ourselves whether space tourism might cause damage to our own planet. At the moment, tourist flights are extremely expensive and their carbon dioxide emissions are very high. But this too might change in the coming years.

Apart from us, no children have ever traveled into space, but no doubt the space tourist industry will change over the next few years, and in due course children will also be allowed to enjoy the experience.

Kármán line

KÁRMÁN LINE 620 MI (100 KM)

The Kármán line is recognized all over the world as the border between the Earth's atmosphere and space. There's nothing to see, though it is an imaginary line.

When a spacecraft passes the Kármán line at a height of about 620 miles (100 kilometers) above the Earth's surface and enters orbit, the space tourists get their first experience of weightlessness and their first view of the Earth from outer space.