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## **SPACE CITY SPOTLIGHT SERIES FOR AUGUST 2008**

### **'Man On The Moon' At Space Center Houston**

Imagine putting a man on the moon at a time when people used rotary dial telephones, transistor radios were popular and gasoline was around 33 cents gallon. Getting to the moon may have seemed like an ambitious idea, but the reality of how to execute the mission would take some ingenuity. With the eyes of the world focused on Houston's mission control and the moon, Neil Armstrong took that first step and changed the space program forever.

NASA's Johnson Space Center and Space Center Houston invite visitors to take a journey back in time and see some of the world's finest collection of artifacts including Pete Conrad's moon suit worn on Apollo 12; Mike Collin's bio-isolation garment worn aboard Apollo 11, in-flight coverall garment worn by Apollo 7's Wally Schirra and a pressure suit from the Apollo Lunar Lander. Space enthusiasts will enjoy viewing Flight Director Gene Kranz's vest. Kranz is known for his role in saving the crew aboard Apollo 13 and was portrayed in several movies including "Apollo 13." In addition, Apollo 17, the last manned spacecraft to the moon can be seen in the Starship Gallery.

John F. Kennedy challenged the space program and America to be first in putting a man on the moon back in the '60s. Visitors now have the opportunity to see the actual podium the former President used to deliver his inspirational speech.

The crewmen aboard Apollo 11 brought back hundreds of pounds of moon rocks after their historical journey. Space Center Houston has the largest sample of lunar rocks on display in the world including a piece of the moon that visitors can touch in the Starship Gallery along with an array of lunar tools.

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Saturn V Rocket is the most powerful rocket ever built and operated. With only one of three left in the world, it played a major role in making the U.S. first to land on the moon. Saturn V is now inside the new Saturn V building complex and has been completely refurbished after a two year process.

Visitors can view the portraits and crew photos in the Astronaut Gallery of every U.S astronaut who has flown in space.

The Lunar Module LTA-8 (Lunar Test Article number 8) is the vehicle that landed on the moon and was thoroughly tested at JSC Chamber-B in May and June of 1968. Testing simulated the vacuum of space as well as the temperatures and lighting conditions that would be experienced during a space flight. In addition, visitors will also see mock-ups used for astronaut training including the Lunar Module Cockpit trainer and the Lunar Roving Vehicle Trainer.

The feature film “On Human Destiny” at the Destiny Theater in Space Center Houston will take viewers on a journey through the fascinating and challenging world of the space program. “On Human Destiny” is free with admission and is shown twice an hour. Once the film is over, visitors are directed into the Starship Gallery Timeline that highlights all of the space programs including Project Mercury with fascinating historical artifacts.

Another key element in the *Man on the Moon* series is the Little Joe II Rocket. It was used to test the Apollo launch escape system and the command module earth landing system. Its predecessor Little Joe had been used in testing for Mercury. Visitors can experience Little Joe II Rocket up close and personal at the Saturn V complex at Space Center Houston.

*Space Center Houston is open every day of the year with the exception of Christmas Day. Admission is \$18.95 for adults, \$14.95 for children ages 4-11 and Senior tickets are \$17.95. August hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon. – Fri.; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays. December hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon. – Fri.; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Hours may vary daily during the holiday season. For more information please call 281.244.2105 or visit [www.spacecenter.org](http://www.spacecenter.org)*

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