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SPACE CITY SPOTLIGHT FOR JANUARY 2009

Apollo: The Dream of A Man on The Moon Becomes Reality

It was a time when some people thought the idea of a lunar landing was as far as the moon itself. There were songs written about it and movies shown on the big screen. President John F. Kennedy challenged America and the space program to be the first in the space race to the moon by the end of the 60s. So when Neil Armstrong took that first step on the moon, the space program took off and changed forever.

NASA's Johnson Space Center and Space Center Houston are home to world-class artifacts from The Apollo program 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. Visitors will enjoy seeing Flight Director Gene Kranz's vest he often wore during missions. Kranz was known for his role in saving the crew aboard Apollo 13 and portrayed in several movies including "Apollo 13." In addition, Apollo 17, the last manned spacecraft to land on the moon, can be seen in the Starship Gallery.

Apollo 11 astronauts 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.

Visitors now have the opportunity to see the actual podium former President John F. Kennedy used to deliver his inspirational speech about being the first country to put a man on the moon by the end of the 60s.

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 at Space Center Houston and has been completely refurbished after a two year process.

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

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 and can be found at Space Center Houston. The 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.

'On Human Destiny' is a feature film that outlines the fascinating history of space and where it will take us one day. It is shown in the Destiny Theater twice an hour just inside the Starship Gallery.

Another key element in the Apollo series is the Little Joe II Rocket. It was used to test the Apollo launch escape system and the command module earth landing system. It's 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.

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. April hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon. – Fri. and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Hours may vary during holidays. For more information please call 281.244.2105 or visit www.spacecenter.org

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