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SPACE CITY SPOTLIGHT FOR MARCH 2009

International Space Station: The Future is Now At Space Center Houston

How does an astronaut shower or eat while in space? *Living In Space* is a live interactive presentation that uses humor to show visitors how astronauts do the simplest of tasks without gravity.

The space program comes to life for visitors at the Mission Status Center where visitors can get updates on current space flights and astronaut training activities. When available, visitors may see a shuttle launch via satellite from Kennedy Space Center in Florida. During missions, visitors can listen in on the communication between JSC and astronauts on board the Shuttle.

Experience the awesome feel of space and learn about the history of The International Space Station in the Northrop Grumman Theater at Space Center Houston. '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.

The Starship Gallery at Space Center Houston is filled with a fascinating timeline of rich, historical artifacts that will take visitors on a journey through the space programs major accomplishments.

Space enthusiasts will not want to miss the Shuttle Avionics Intergration Laboratory (Bldg. 9) during the NASA Tram Tour. It is the place where all new software and aviation electronics for the Space Shuttle were tested before they were installed and flown. The laboratory is a complete mock-up of the Shuttle in terms of electronics and was often a preferred training ground for astronauts rather than the actual simulators.

Marvel at a complete model of the International Space Station at Space Center Houston. The replica is 1/12 the size of the one currently floating in space.

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

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Space Center Houston also has some of NASA projects that were never used on a mission including a model of the capsule-type crew return vehicle for astronauts aboard the International Space Station called an X-38. The program was canceled due to budget issues in 2002.

View some of the interesting objects taken into space such as a Shuttle glove with a 2002 All-Star Game Collector's baseball that was flown on Expedition 5.

Visitors can also see Shuttle astronaut Carl Waltz's Expedition 4 coveralls. Waltz lived on the International Space Station for six months and used the little free time available to play his keyboard and sing. Space Center Houston also has a bit of Russian history with its Russian Orlan spacesuit, used for spacewalks and a Soviet "Flying Armchair," which is America's version of a rocket pack.

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. May hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon. – Fri and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Hours may vary daily during holidays. For more information please call 281.244.2105 or visit www.spacecenter.org

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