

# Stellar Discovery Guide

My trip to Space Center Houston



At the entrance to **Space Center Houston**, I see two airplanes!



Did you know that astronauts train on Talon T-38 jets just like these?



This is the **front entrance** where we get our tickets.



I may have to wait in a short line to get inside, but it will be worth the wait!

At the **security desk**, a friendly security person will check our bags for safety!



Did you know that astronauts wear a backpack in space?

Called SAFER, this backpack helps keep astronauts safe!

The security guards at Space Center Houston are helpers that keep us safe. I can go to them if I need help.

I will give my ticket to the nice person at the **turnstile**.

They will scan my ticket with a machine that makes a beeping sound.



Then I will get my ticket back and go through the turnstile. The turnstile is fun! But I can use the gate instead if I need it.

Did you know there is no sound in space?

At Space Center Houston, it is OK to cover your ears if it gets loud.



I can have a great time by following these simple rules:

- I will stay with my group or family at all times.
- I will walk slowly like an astronaut!
- I will use a quiet, inside voice.
- I will only touch things that are OK to touch.
- I will ask for help if I am lost or don't know what to do.



Astronauts and engineers love to learn about new things. They also have a set of rules they always must follow.

At the **Guest Service Desk**, I can check out a Sensory Backpack, get a map or find help.



**Space Explorers** are all around Space Center Houston. Their job is to make sure everyone has a great time! They can answer my space questions, give me directions and even tell me a joke. They each have a cool bag like this:



At the **children's area**, I can touch and play with many fun things.

Sometimes there are many other children in this area. I will wait patiently for my turn. There is so much to learn here. I can keep busy.

There are two sets of stairs or an elevator to get me to the top floor.



Did you know that astronauts must train with other astronauts for at least two years before they go to space? Way to work together!



At the **Mission Mars exhibit**, I can learn about Mars!



Did you know that Mars has robots from Earth exploring its surface right now?

Humans will go to Mars someday so we need to learn all about our neighboring planet.

There are many things for me to touch or to feel.



In **Astronaut Gallery**, I can see spacesuits that astronauts wore to live and work in space. The suits are real spacesuits, but the mannequins wearing them are like big dolls. They cannot move or talk.



Did you know that spacesuits are filled with pressurized air? It makes it hard for us to move.



How do astronauts eat, sleep or go to the bathroom? The **Living in Space** area will show me!

I can learn about what it is like to live and work on the International Space Station at this live show.



I can also look at the displays in the **Living in Space** area. Being an astronaut looks like fun!



There are fun shows here at Space Center Houston! Sometimes these shows can be loud, but if I need to, I can cover my ears.

At the **Stellar Science Stage**, I can learn about space science! This is a great show for kids!



The **Rocket Science Show** in Astronaut Gallery uses real fire and can be very loud!

There are two different shows in the **Mission Briefing Center** where I can learn about current missions or deep space exploration. Adults seem to really like this one.

## Starship Gallery

I don't want to miss these cool space artifacts! The entrance has a 15-minute movie, but if I need to, I can skip it.



Once inside, it is a little dark, because it looks like being in space!



Did you know **Starship Gallery** has hundreds of awesome NASA artifacts? This area also is where guests can *touch a Moon rock*, or go outside to the shuttle replica and real shuttle carrier aircraft at **Independence Plaza**.



In **Starship Gallery**, I see a real spaceship! **Faith 7** is the *actual* Mercury 9 space capsule that flew 22 times around the Earth in May 1963. It was piloted by Gordon “Gordo” Cooper. Wow! It sure is small!

When I look up, I can see the actual **Gemini V** space capsule which flew in August 1965.

I also see a spacesuit hanging next to the capsule. There isn't anyone inside, it is just a suit to teach me about spacewalks!



Next in **Starship Gallery**, I can see the last spacecraft to visit the Moon! This capsule is named **America** and flew on the Apollo 17 mission in December 1972.

Did you know that 12 people have walked on the Moon? All of them were from the USA.





Wow! What a big door! At the back of **Starship Gallery** is the entrance to the **Lunar Vault**.

Inside I can touch a real Moon rock!



At the end of **Starship Gallery**, I can go inside **Skylab** to see how astronauts lived and worked in space back in the 1970s. There are mannequins (like big dolls) inside.



Wow! Look at that mannequin doing flips in space! That looks like fun!



The triangle on the bottom of this mannequin astronaut's shoe fits in the slots on the wall so he doesn't "float" away.

Did you know astronauts used to shower in space?

Now astronauts use large wet wipes to keep clean.



This is the doorway to **Independence Plaza** where I can go inside the space shuttle replica and the real shuttle carrier aircraft.



To get there, I must go around this panel and outside through doors, and then up the stairs or elevators. I wonder how many stairs there are?

On the flight deck, I can see where astronauts controlled the space shuttle.



Did you know that the space shuttle did not have the power to fly? It used a rocket to send it to space, then glided back down to Earth. Shuttle carrier aircraft were used to take them back to their "home" in Florida.



I can see and do so many things at **Independence Plaza!**



I can buy cool NASA and Space Center Houston stuff at **SpaceTrader** (gift shop)!



I can eat yummy food and find clean bathrooms in **Zero-G Diner**.  
They even have a gluten-sensitive menu!



Did you know that zero gravity can only happen when an object is in free fall?

Zero-G Diner has gravity so your food will not float away.



I can ride a tram on the **NASA Tram Tour to see NASA Johnson Space Center!** We can take a group picture before we go and buy a copy when we return.



If it is cold or wet outside, I will need to wear a jacket.

No food or drink is allowed on the tour so I will finish it before I go.

Speaking of going, I will go to the bathroom before I get on the tram.

The **NASA Tram Tour** stops at some awesome locations! Real astronauts and other NASA experts are working hard so I must be on my best behavior.

**Apollo Mission Control Center** is one stop on the **NASA Tram Tour**. This is the room that controlled the missions to the Moon! I can walk up 67 steps or take the elevator to get to the viewing area where I can sit quietly during the presentation.



Did you know that the first word spoken from the Moon was “Houston?”

Astronaut Neil Armstrong was speaking to people working in this control room!

**Building 9**, or the Space Vehicle Mock-Up Facility, is also on the **NASA Tram Tour**. This is where I can see current astronauts training on Earth, and see robots being built and tested. The astronauts may be wearing spacesuits but usually they wear polos.



Did you know that astronauts only need spacesuits on spacewalks?

They can wear regular clothes inside the International Space Station and on Earth.



The last stop on the **NASA Tram Tour** is **Rocket Park**. The Saturn V rocket that took humans to the Moon is huge!

Did you know  
that no human  
has been to the  
Moon since  
1972?



At the end of my visit, I will go back out through the turnstiles to the parking lot.

I learned a lot and had so much fun at **Space Center Houston**. I did not want to leave and cannot wait to come back.



Thanks for visiting Space Center Houston!

I hope you enjoyed your visit and learned a lot about humans in space.