

Stellar Discovery Guide

My trip to Space Center Houston



This guide will help me have a great adventure while I explore.

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

- 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.
- I will wash my hands frequently to keep everyone safe.
- I will always stay with my group or family.

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



Before we get to Space Center Houston, we need to download the **Space Center Houston App**.

It has fun activities, maps, schedules, and other great tools! It is the best way to schedule a tram tour.

The app is called **“Space Center Houston”**

The NASA app is nice, too.



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



Astronauts train on Talon T-38 jets just like these.



Astronauts pack very carefully for space missions. Unsafe items must stay on Earth.

We will leave unsafe items at home or in the car.

Toothbrushes, medicine, work items, and even toys are allowed in space!



Astronauts wear protective gear when traveling in space.

I will wear my protective gear today!



This is the **front entrance** where we go inside. My ticket will let me know what time to be ready to start the mission.



Astronauts must launch during a launch window, the period of time to launch the rocket so it will arrive in space at the best time for the mission.



A friendly security person will check our bags for safety! I know I can let them look in my bag because they are here to help.



The security guards at Space Center Houston work to keep us safe.

I can go to them if I need any help. They can be found in many places inside the building too!



These new astronauts are excited to take a group picture!



A photographer will take my group's picture.

They will use a computer to put a fun background behind our picture.

I will scan my ticket at the **turnstile**.

It is easy! We just put our ticket under the scanner, which makes a beeping sound to let us know it worked.



Then we walk through the turnstile to begin our adventure!

At the **Guest Service Desk**, I can check out a Sensory Backpack, ask for directions or find help with other questions.



Crew Members (who often wear blue shirts) and **Volunteers** (who wear red shirts) are all around Space Center Houston. Their job is to make sure everyone has a great time and stays safe.

I can touch and play with many fun things at **Space Center Houston**

Sometimes there are many other people here, too. I will wait patiently for my turn. There is so much to learn here. I can keep busy.



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 how we are studying the planet Mars!

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



Throughout the center, 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.

Pete Conrad's suit looks dirty. It is covered in Moon dust!



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



Being an astronaut looks like it would be fun!

Astronauts need to
eat, sleep, exercise,
and go to the
bathroom, too!



There are fun shows here at Space Center Houston!



I will sit quietly on the bleachers during the **New Perspectives** live show.

From this kid-friendly show, I can learn about what it is like to live and work on the International Space Station.

The **Boom Flyby** show can be very loud. I sometimes can hear a loud booming noise even from across the center. If I need to, I can cover my ears.



This 10-minute presentation teaches about rocket engines.

There is real fire in the show, but I know that it is very safe.

There are no seats at this show, so we can walk by if we like.

Or we can stand and watch for the big "boom!"

Starship Gallery

I don't want to miss these cool space artifacts!

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

Since we are still on Earth, I will keep my feet firmly on the ground. That way, the spacecraft and I can both stay safe.





In **Starship Gallery**, I see a real spaceship! **Faith 7** is the *actual* Mercury 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.

12 people have walked on the Moon.

NASA plans to send more people to the Moon very soon.





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

Inside I can see real Moon rocks!



After the **Moon rock vault**, 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!

Astronauts used to shower in space.

Now astronauts use large wet wipes to keep clean.



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



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 go around this panel and outside through doors.



I can go inside the space shuttle by walking up the stairs or using the elevators. I wonder how many stairs there are?



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

Up to seven astronauts could ride in the space shuttle on a mission.

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



Wow! There is a big rocket outside I can walk right up to! This is the first stage of a **Space X Falcon 9 Rocket**. It flew to space twice, which is why it looks so dirty.



8 powerful engines surround 1 in the center on this rocket booster.

These engines work together to give the rocket a lot of power.



I can eat yummy food and find clean bathrooms in **Food Lab**. There is plenty of room to spread out, so we all stay healthy.

We can order food at the kiosks, then pick up the food at the counter. Our order number will turn green when the food is ready!



If it is open to the public today, I can ride a tram on the **NASA Tram Tour** to see **NASA Johnson Space Center**! We get our boarding pass on the app and will get a notification 15 minutes before the tram boards.



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

Medically necessary strollers are allowed on the tram tour. But only drinks with lids are 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.

NASA Tram Tour to Rocket Park.

The Saturn V rocket that took humans to the Moon is huge!



The rocket is 363 feet tall and weighed 6.2 million pounds when filled with fuel!

That's about the weight of 400 African elephants!



NASA Tram Tour to Historic Mission Control.



I walk up 87 stairs to a very important room.

I must be very quiet and very still in this room.

I will keep my feet and hands to myself and off the seats.

Building 9, or the Space Vehicle Mock-Up Facility, is on the **NASA Blue 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 polo shirts and slacks when training here.



Before we leave, I can stay with my group and buy cool NASA and Space Center Houston stuff at **SpaceTrader** (gift shop)



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!

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