

FACT SHEET

Independence Plaza

Space Center Houston's colossal exhibit Independence Plaza presented by Boeing features the historic NASA 905 shuttle carrier aircraft and the shuttle replica Independence. This landmark attraction is the world's only shuttle replica mounted on a shuttle carrier aircraft and the only place where the public can enter both vehicles.

Fun Facts

- The 240-ton SCA and shuttle complex stands on a 15-inch concrete foundation that rests on a 20-inch layer of compacted sand.
- Although the main landing gear beam was cut for transportation to our center, the reassembled 747 structure is flight certifiable.
- NASA called the plane NASA 905 when it was used as a shuttle carrier aircraft (SCA).

Experiential Exhibits

Visitors have a rare glimpse into the historic shuttle era as they learn about its impact on future exploration. The vast fuselage of the plane and the inside of the shuttle have been transformed into engaging learning spaces featuring artifacts and exhibits tracing the remarkable Space Shuttle Program. Exhibits focus on problem-solving concepts; possible career paths in science, technology, engineering and mathematics; and examples of innovation from the shuttle era. To learn more, visit spacecenter.org/independence.

The Shuttle Carrier Aircraft

This SCA is the largest intact artifact from the shuttle program and played key roles in the orbiter's development. NASA 905 carried space shuttles 223 times and amassed 11,017 flight hours over 42 years. It is the first of two SCAs.

- Length: 231 feet, 4 inches (70.5 meters)
- Wingspan: 195 feet 8 inches (59.7 meters)
- Height: 63 feet 5 inches (19.3 meters)
- Empty weight: 318,000 pounds (144,200 kg)

The Shuttle Replica Independence

Independence was remodeled to offer unprecedented access to previously restricted areas and is stocked with a collection of artifacts to share its historic contributions.

- Length: 122 feet (37.2 meters)
- Wingspan: 78 feet (23.7 meters)
- Height: 57 feet (17.3 meters)
- Weight: 171,000 pounds (77,500 kilograms)

The Perfect Venue for Your Event

This historic plane and shuttle replica can be the setting for your perfect event. Host your special occasion among some of the most inspiring innovations of our time. Visit spacecenter.org/host.



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