



TOUR AND OVERVIEW

Space Shuttle Atlantis Exhibit at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex

SPACE SHUTTLE ATLANTIS EXHIBIT

The Space Shuttle Atlantis exhibit is the flagship centerpiece of the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. Opened in June 2013, the \$100 million, 90,000-square-foot attraction is built around the Atlantis and devoted to the three decades of NASA's Space Shuttle Program. Atlantis flew in space 33 times and holds the distinction of carrying out the final mission of the program, STS-135.

The drama of the Atlantis exhibit begins at its entrance, as visitors are greeted by a full-scale, 184-foot vertical replica of the orbiter's external tank and two solid rocket boosters, illustrating the magnitude of power needed to get into space.

Inside, Atlantis is on display tilted on its side at a 43.21-degree angle, as if floating in space just after being undocked from the International Space Station. Its payload bay doors are open and robotic arm extended, offering a nearly 360-degree view that only astronauts have seen before.

The building is divided into two wings, respectively representing the shuttle's launch and return. Before reaching the shuttle itself, visitors enjoy multimedia cinematic presentations designed to build anticipation and show the evolution of the 30-year Space Shuttle Program and NASA's five space-flown shuttles: Columbia, Challenger, Discovery, Atlantis, and Endeavour.

Other major highlights include:

- The Hubble Space Telescope Theater, with a detailed 43-foot long replica of the telescope, and a cinematic production in the 40-seat theater with stunning images of deep space
- The International Space Station Gallery, where visitors can enter a scale replica of an ISS module and experience the sensation of floating in space
- The Shuttle Launch Experience, a theme park style simulator ride where visitors strap in to experience the sights, sounds and vertical sensations of a space shuttle launch
- Astronaut Training Simulators with 21 consoles modeled on actual NASA training simulators, where visitors can practice landing the orbiter, docking to the ISS, and manipulating the shuttle's robotic arm
- The On Orbit Gallery, with an actual 8,000-pound space shuttle main engine and virtual reality simulators that invite guests to test their spacewalking skills or take the controls in a space shuttle cockpit replica
- The Re-entry Zone, where visitors see what it takes for astronauts to land the orbiter.

