

Our Artemis Crew

Meet the astronauts who will venture around the Moon on Artemis II, the first crewed flight aboard NASA's human deep space capabilities, paving the way for future lunar surface missions.

4 Astronauts

10 Day Mission

Meet the Crew

These explorers represent the best of humanity, daring to forge new frontiers in space on behalf of humanity.

News Release



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Commander

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Pilot

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Christina Hammock Koch
Mission Specialist

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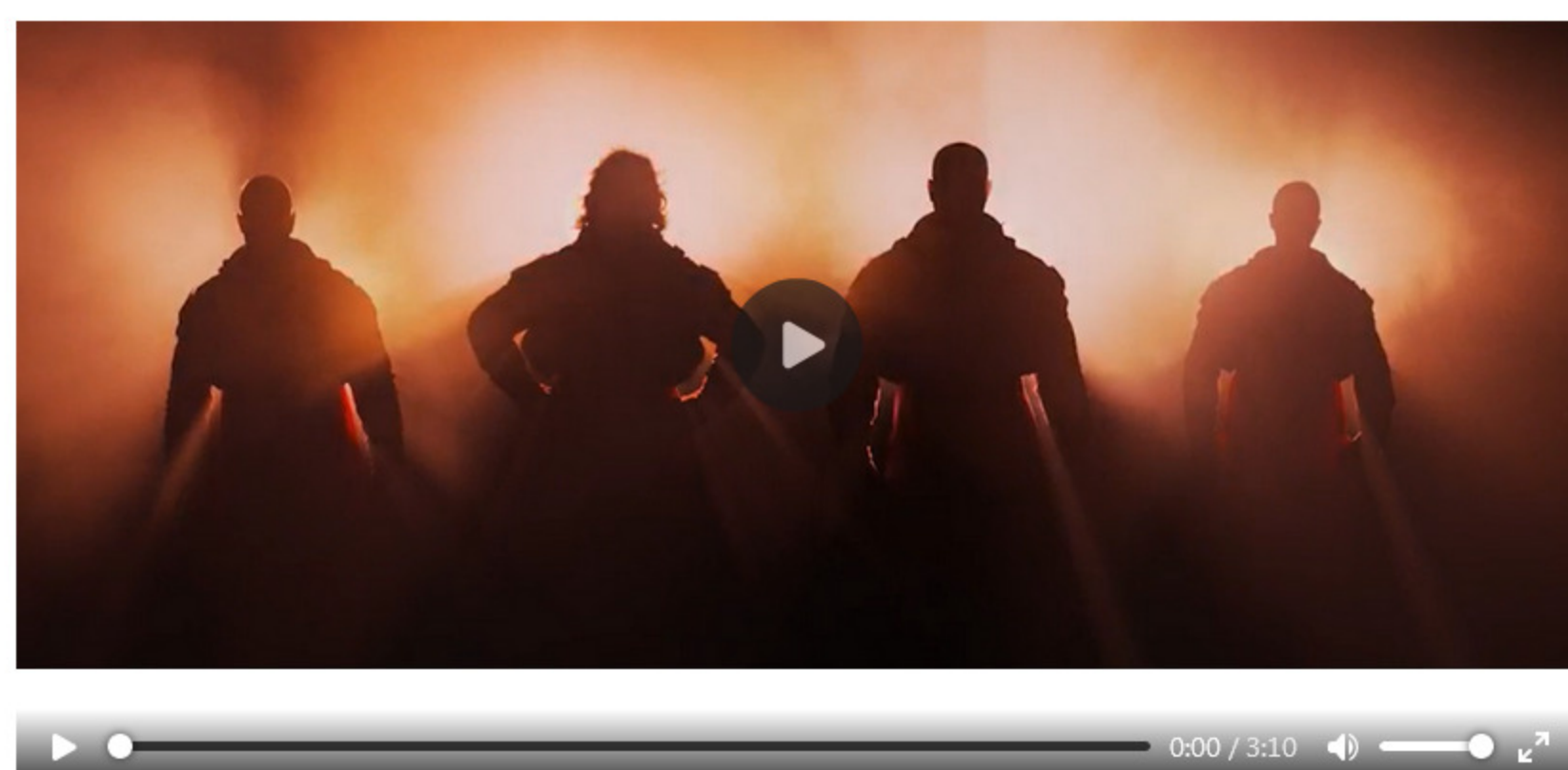
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Jeremy Hansen
Mission Specialist

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Next Generation of Explorers

Artemis II is NASA's first mission with crew aboard our foundational deep space rocket, the Space Launch System, and Orion spacecraft and will confirm all the spacecraft's systems operate as designed with crew aboard in the actual environment of deep space. The mission will pave the way for lunar surface missions, including by the first woman and first person of color, establishing long-term lunar science and exploration capabilities, and inspire the next generation of explorers - The Artemis Generation.



The Artemis II crew in an Orion simulator at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.
NASA/James Blair

A Bold Mission

The crew of four astronauts will lift off on the approximately 10-day mission from Launch Complex 39B at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, blazing beyond Earth's grasp atop the agency's mega Moon rocket. Over the course of about two days, they will check out Orion's systems and perform a targeting demonstration test relatively close to Earth before then beginning the trek toward the Moon.



NASA's Space Launch System rocket carrying the Orion spacecraft launches on the Artemis I flight test, Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2022, from Launch Complex 39B at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. NASA's Artemis I mission is the first integrated flight test of the agency's deep space exploration systems: the Orion spacecraft, Space Launch System (SLS) rocket, and ground systems. SLS and Orion launched at 1:47 a.m. EST, from Launch Pad 39B at the Kennedy Space Center.
NASA/Bill Ingalls

Orion's European-built service module will give the spacecraft the big push needed to break free from Earth orbit and set course for the Moon. This trans-lunar injection burn will send the astronauts on an outbound trip of about four days, taking them around the far side of the Moon, where they will ultimately create a figure-eight extending more than 230,000 miles from Earth. At their max distance, the crew will fly about 6,400 miles beyond the Moon. During the approximate four-day return trip, the astronauts will continue to evaluate the spacecraft's systems.

Instead of requiring propulsion on the return, this fuel-efficient trajectory harnesses the Earth-Moon gravity field, ensuring that—after its trip around the far side of the Moon—Orion will be pulled back naturally by Earth's gravity for the free return portion of the mission.

The crew will endure the high-speed, high-temperature reentry through Earth's atmosphere before splashing down in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of San Diego, where they will be met by a recovery team of NASA and Department of Defense personnel who will bring them back to shore.



NASA's Orion spacecraft captured an image of the Earth and Moon together in December 2022, during Artemis I. The image was captured using a camera on the tip of one of the spacecraft's solar array wings.
NASA

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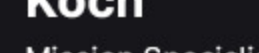
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