

APOLLO

MISSIONS TO THE MOON

TIMELINE

OCTOBER 1, 1958 ● United States Congress and President Eisenhower set up the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

MAY 5, 1961 Alan Shepard is the first American to fly into space.



FEBRUARY 20, 1962 ● John Glenn orbits the Earth.

JUNE 3, 1965 **Gemini 4's** Ed White makes the first US spacewalk.



MARCH 16, 1966 ● **Gemini 8** spins out of control and Neil Armstrong and David Scott save the day.

JANUARY 27, 1967 Fire breaks out during the **Apollo 1** crew's launch rehearsal, three weeks before the mission's official launch date, killing all three of the crew (Gus Grissom, Ed White and Roger Chaffee).



OCTOBER 11-22, 1968 **Apollo 7** is the first crewed Apollo mission to get to space. During the 11-day flight, crewmembers Wally Schirra, Walt Cunningham and Donn Eisele conduct tests on the spacecraft systems as well as the first live TV program from an American spacecraft.



PREMIERES SATURDAY JULY 13 9PM HKT



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

DOCUMENTARY
FILMS

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DECEMBER 21-27, 1968

Frank Borman, Jim Lovell and Bill Anders are the first crew to fly atop the powerful Saturn V booster on the **Apollo 8** mission and spends 20 hours orbiting the Moon. The crew gives a memorable Christmas Eve reading and Anders takes the iconic "Earthrise" photo while he is in orbit.



MARCH 3-13, 1969

The **Apollo 9** mission is the first to carry a lunar module into orbit. Commander James McDivitt and Lunar Module Pilot Rusty Schweickart separate the lunar module from the command module and fly independently for six hours in Earth's orbit. Schweickart conducts a spacewalk on the lunar module's "porch" to test the spacesuit astronauts will wear on the Moon.



MAY 18-26, 1969

The **Apollo 10** mission is a full dress rehearsal for the first lunar landing. The crew (Thomas Stafford, Eugene Cernan and John Young) tests all aspects of the mission, even showing the initial docking with the lunar module on the first color television transmission from space.

JULY 16-24, 1969

The **Apollo 11** mission puts humans on the Moon for the first time in history. Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin explore the area around their lunar landing site for more than than hours and collect rock and soil samples, set up experiments, plant an American flag and leave behind medallions that honor the Apollo 1 crew and a plaque saying, "We came in peace for all mankind."



NOVEMBER 14-24, 1969

Among the many mission objectives for **Apollo 12** are to recover pieces of Surveyor III, a robotic lander that had been on the Moon for more than two years so that scientists can study the effects of the lunar environment on the spacecraft. The crew, including astronauts Pete Conrad and Alan Bean, also deploys an experiment package that includes a seismometer and jettisons the lunar module's ascent stage before leaving orbit to provide a controlled impact experiment as it crashes into the lunar surface.



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DOCUMENTARY FILMS

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APRIL 11-17, 1970

Apollo 13 is a "successful failure." The crew never lands on the Moon but makes it back to Earth after an explosion cripples its ship. Thanks to the mission control team's improvised procedures and its own ability to implement them, Jim Lovell, Fred Haise and Jack Swigert come home safely.



**JANUARY 31-
FEBRUARY 9, 1971**

The crew of **Apollo 14** spends more than nine hours outside the lunar module on the Moon to set up a number of experiments. Alan Shepard sets a new distance record by walking more than 9,000 feet on the lunar surface, and he and Edgar Mitchell get temporarily lost looking for lunar landmark Cone Crater. Shepard also famously hits golf balls on the Moon.



**JULY 26-
AUGUST 7, 1971**

The first of the Apollo "J" missions, designed for longer stays on the Moon, **Apollo 15**, carries a lunar rover. Commander David Scott and Lunar Module pilot James Irwin use the rover while they are on the surface for more than 18 hours, traveling over 17 miles, setting up experiments and collecting 170 pounds of samples. One of the samples is a four-billion-year-old rock known as Genesis Rock.

APRIL 16-27, 1972

Apollo 16's Commander John Young and Lunar Module Pilot Charles Duke drive more than 16 miles over three moonwalks and collect 209 pounds of samples and set the Moon land speed record of 10.5 miles per hour in the lunar rover.



DECEMBER 7-19, 1972

The last Apollo mission features the most extensive lunar exploration of the program, with three moonwalks that each last more than seven hours while the **Apollo 17** crew stays on the Moon for more than three days. Commander Gene Cernan and Lunar Module Pilot Harrison Schmitt – the first scientist-astronaut to reach the Moon – collect 243 pounds of material. These samples, and those from previous missions, are still being studied today, continuing to reveal more about the Moon as new tools and techniques are developed and applied.



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