

Space photos: Stunning images you have to see
USA TODAY



Photos in Gallery © Craig Bailey, FLORIDA TODAY/USA TODAY Network

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket lifts off from Pad 39A at Kennedy Space Center, FL Friday morning, May 6, 2022, as seen from historic Launch Complex 5 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.

The rocket is carrying 53 Starlink satellites. Complex 5 was the site where Alan Shepard made the first suborbital flight (May, 5, 1961) on a Mercury-Redstone rocket, a replica of which stands on the site today.



NASA's Space Launch System rocket is transported back to the Vehicle Assembly Building at Kennedy Space Center Tuesday, April 26, 2022. The vehicle, which went through prelaunch testing on Pad 39B is headed back for repairs prior to retesting.





3 of 39 Photos in Gallery The sun rises over Pad 39B at Kennedy Space Center, FL, Tuesday, March 29, 2022, where NASA's SLS rocket sits further testing ahead of a potential launch to the moon.



The sun rises over Pad 39B at Kennedy Space Center, FL, Sunday, March 27, 2022, where NASA's SLS rocket sits awaiting testing ahead of a potential launch to the moon.



A United Launch Alliance V rocket lifts off from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station Tuesday, March 1, 2022. The rocket is carrying the GOES-T satellite for NASA and NOAA.



The Soyuz MS-20 spacecraft carrying the crew of Russian cosmonaut Alexander Misurkin, Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa and his production assistant Yozo Hirano blasts off to the International Space Station (ISS) from the Moscow-leased Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Dec. 8, 2021.



View of the launch of a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket carrying NASA's Lucy spacecraft viewed from Port Canaveral, Florida on October 16, 2021. The rocket was launched from Launch Complex 41 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station at 5:34 a.m. Saturday morning. Four minute time exposure of the launch.



A United Launch Alliance Atlas V lifts off from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station Tuesday, May, 18, 2021. The rocket is carrying the Space-Based Infrared System (SBIRS) satellite for the US military.



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket lifts off from Kennedy Space Center Sunday, March 14, 2021. The rocket is carrying 60 Starlink communications satellites.



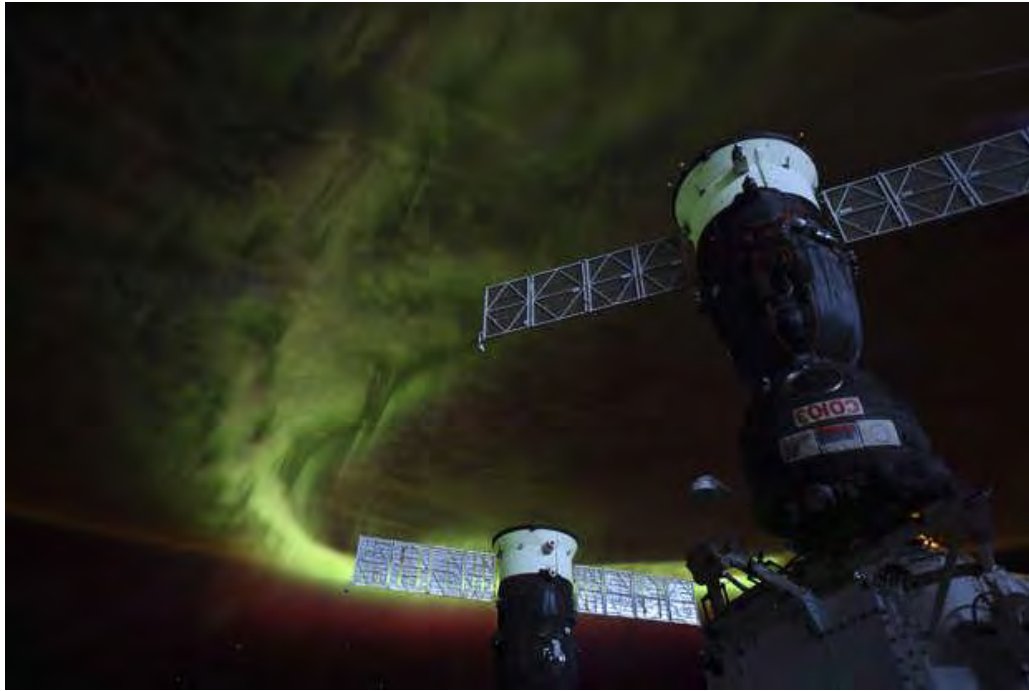
A SpaceX Falcon 9 lifts off on Pad 40 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021. The rocket is carrying dozens of small payloads into space on the Transporter-1 ride sharing mission. Launch was delayed 24 hours due to unfavorable weather conditions.



Soyuz MS-15 space ship carrying a new crew to the International Space Station, ISS, at the Russian leased Baikonur cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019. The Russian rocket carries U.S. astronaut Jessica Meir, Russian cosmonaut Oleg Skripochka, and United Arab Emirates astronaut Hazza Almansoori.



A United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket lifts off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station Aug. 8, 2019 carrying the AEHF 5 communications satellite for the U.S. military.



An image of an aurora taken on June 13, 2019, from aboard the International Space Station, by NASA astronaut Christina Koch, saying: "Years ago at the South Pole, I looked up to the aurora for inspiration through the 6-month winter night, now I know they're just as awe inspiring from above."



14 of 39 Photos in Gallery A Long March-11 solid propellant carrier rocket blasts off from a mobile launch platform in the Yellow Sea off east China's Shandong Province, June 5, 2019. China has for the first time launched a rocket from a mobile platform in the Yellow Sea, sending a five commercial satellites and two others containing experimental technology into space.



A United Launch Alliance Delta IV Medium rocket launches from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station March 15, 2019. The rocket is carrying a communications satellite for the US Military.





People on the beach in the north end of Cape Canaveral got a great view of the launch and landing of the SpaceX Heavy launched from Launch Pad 39A at Kennedy Space Center Thursday evening at 6:35 p.m. The rocket was carrying the Arabsat 6A communications satellite. The side boosters landed at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and the core booster landing on the “Of Course I Still Love You” Drone ship.



The Soyuz-FG rocket booster with Soyuz MS-12 space ship carrying a new crew to the International Space Station, ISS, blasts off at the Russian leased Baikonur cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, early Friday, March 15, 2019.



NASA astronaut Christina Koch assists fellow astronauts Nick Hague and Anne McClain in their spacesuits shortly before they begin the first spacewalk of their careers, aboard the International Space Station (ISS), March, 22, 2019 NASA canceled the first all-female spacewalk which was scheduled for March 29, 2019, citing spacesuit issues.



This NASA photo shows the Soyuz MS-12 spacecraft that launched three new Expedition 59-60 crew members to the International Space Station as it docked to the Rassvet module on March 15, 2019. Cosmonaut Alexey Ovchinin from Roscosmos commanded the Soyuz crew ship flanked by NASA astronauts Nick Hague and Christina Koch during the five-hour, 47-minute trip that began at the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.



A time exposure of the Delta IV launch from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, as seen from the edge of Indian River Lagoon, just north of the Melbourne Causeway, March, 15, 2019.

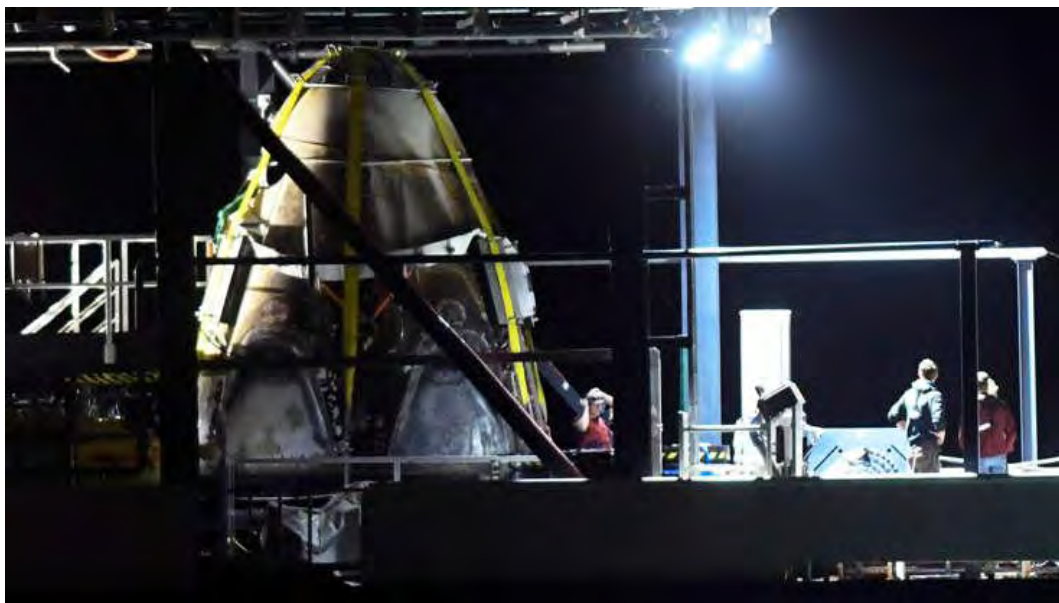
A time exposure of the Delta IV launch from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, as seen from the edge of Indian River Lagoon, just north of the Melbourne Causeway, March, 15, 2019.



NASA astronaut Christina Hammock Koch, a member of the International Space Station expedition 59/60, gestures from inside a bus during a farewell ceremony outside the Cosmonaut hotel prior to the launch onboard the Soyuz MS-12 spacecraft from the Russian-leased Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on March 14, 2019.



This is a 155 second time exposure of the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launching from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station's Launch Complex 40, Feb. 21, 2019. The rocket is carrying an Indonesian Nusantara Satu communications satellite and a secondary payload, the SpaceIL and Israel Aerospace Industries lunar lander named Beresheet, or "in the beginning" in Hebrew. That lander will take about two months to reach lunar orbit before attempting to touch down on the moon.



The SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule aboard the support ship Go Searcher, returns to Port Canaveral March 9, 2019. The capsule, launched aboard a Falcon 9 rocket last week, made a trip to the International Space Station before returning to Earth.



Former Astronaut Buzz Aldrin salutes after being introduced at the 2019 State of the Union address in Washington D.C. Feb 5, 2019.



The SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule atop a Falcon 9 rocket launches to the International Space Station from the Kennedy Space Center at 2:39 a.m. March 2, 2019. The test flight is part of NASA's Commercial Crew Program to launch astronauts once again from U.S. soil. The capsule is carrying a test dummy to measure the responses on the human body and its surrounding environment. Photo is a 153 second time exposure viewed from the shores of the Indian River in Cocoa.



Astronaut Bruce McCandless II, during a spacewalk, Feb. 7, 1984. This spacewalk represented the first use of a nitrogen-propelled, hand-controlled device called the Manned Maneuvering Unit (MMU), which allows for much greater mobility.



NASA astronaut Mike Hopkins, Expedition 38 Flight Engineer, participates in the second of two spacewalks, spread over a four-day period, which were designed to allow the crew to change out a degraded pump module on the exterior of the Earth-orbiting International Space Station, Dec. 24, 2013.



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket lifts off from Pad 39A at Kennedy Space Center March 2, 2019. This was the first launch of the rocket with the Crew Dragon capsule that was designed to carry humans into space.



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket with the company's Crew Dragon spacecraft onboard as it is rolled out of the horizontal integration facility at Launch Complex 39A Feb. 28, 2019 at the Kennedy Space Center in Fla.



This is the Virgin Galactic spaceship VSS Unity after release from the WhiteKnightTwo launch vehicle as it heads towards space over Mojave, Calif. Feb. 23, 2019. According to the company the vehicle made its second successful space flight with three astronauts aboard as the hybrid rocket motor propelled the spaceship at Mach 3.04 to an apogee of 55.87 miles above the earth.



The SpaceX Crew Dragon is pictured about 66 feet away from the International Space Station's Harmony module, March 3, 2019.



The Soyuz MS-05 space capsule carrying the International Space Station crew lands in a remote area outside the town of Dzhezkazgan, Kazakhstan, Dec. 14, 2017.



34 of 39 Photos in Gallery Russia's Soyuz MS-10 spacecraft carrying the members of the International Space Station blasts off from the launch pad at the Russian-leased Baikonur cosmodrome in Baikonur. Oct. 11, 2018.



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket with the company's Crew Dragon spacecraft onboard on the launch pad at Launch Complex 39A at the Kennedy Space Center in Fla. March 1, 2019.



The parachute of the Soyuz MS-09 spacecraft lies in the snow shortly after the capsule landed with Expedition 57 crew members in a remote area outside the town of Dzhezkazgan Kazakhstan, Dec. 20, 2018.



A search and rescue team approaches the Soyuz MS-09 capsule carrying the International Space Station crew after its landing in a remote area outside the town of Dzhezkazgan Kazakhstan, Dec. 20, 2018.



The Northrop Grumman Antares rocket, with Cygnus resupply spacecraft onboard, launches from Pad-0A of NASA's Wallops Flight Facility on Nov. 2, 2019, in Wallops Island, Va. Northrop Grumman's 12th cargo resupply mission to the International Space Station will deliver about 8,200 pounds of science and research, crew supplies and vehicle hardware to the orbital laboratory and its crew.



This NASA handout image released Nov. 6, 2019 shows the US Cygnus space freighter from Northrop Grumman pictured in the grips of the Canadarm2 robotic arm as it was installed to the Unity module for 70 days of cargo transfers on November 4, 2019.