Inside the Russian Space Program
Co-Sponsored with MIT Alumni Travel
September 6–16, 2019
This unbelievably close encounter with space flight is for all those grownup kids who dreamed of one day exploring the universe in a spacecraft. Enter the once highly classified world of Russian space travel as a privileged guest. Explore Star City, outside of Moscow, the premier training facility for cosmonauts and foreign astronauts heading for manned space flights. Visit the Monino Air Force Museum at a former Soviet Air Force base, the largest and most complete aviation museum in Russia. Next, journey to the arid steppe of Kazakhstan and the remote Russian launch site, Baikonur Cosmodrome. Inspect the facilities, and witness the manned launch of the Soyuz spacecraft on its way to relieve the crew of the International Space Station, enjoying unparalleled access to VIP viewing areas and briefing sessions. If you’ve ever dreamed of space travel, this is as close as it gets to fulfilling your dreams.

Up close and personal: Travelers attend the official space crew Ready-To-Go Report, just before they board the Soyuz.

Activity Level 3:  🆕️  ⚠️  🏃️  🏃️  🏃️  🏃️

This tour is somewhat challenging due to the daily walking involved, the length of some bus rides, several flights where you need to climb steps to board, and the overall shortcomings of the tourism infrastructure. To reap the full rewards of this adventure, travelers must be able to walk at least a mile a day, keeping up with fellow travelers. Many streets and sidewalks are uneven, and some attractions, such as the Baikonur Cosmodrome, are not designed for visitors as they are working facilities. Some aspects of the tourism infrastructure in Baikonur, Kazakhstan are not up to the standards North American travelers expect. Even in cosmopolitan Moscow, museums and other sites generally do not have elevators.

TO BOOK A TRIP, CALL 800-422-1636 OR VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL

Study Leaders

David A. Mindell, is Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics and Dibner Professor of the History of Engineering and Manufacturing at MIT. He is the author of five books and an expert on human/machine relationships in broad technical, social, and historical context. He is an inventor on seven patents.

For the past twenty years, Mindell has been combining engineering and historical research into the evolution humans’ relationships to machines. Mindell’s engineering work has been primarily in the field of autonomy, robotics, and navigation. He is founder and director of MIT’s “DeepArch” research group in technology, archaeology, and the deep sea. His most recent book, Our Robots Ourselves: How Robotics and Autonomy are Changing Human Identity and Experience (Viking / Penguin 2015) explores human/machine relationships in extreme environments, including human spaceflight. His previous book, Digital Apollo: Human and Machine in Spaceflight (MIT Press, 2008), examines the computers, automation, and software in the Apollo moon landings their effects on human performance and won the Gardner Lasser award from the American institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

At MIT, Mindell teaches courses that combine engineering and the history of technology. He teaches “Engineering Apollo: The Moon Project as a Complex System,” which integrates technical, political, and operational perspectives on the history of space exploration. He has degrees in Literature and in Electrical Engineering from Yale University, and a doctorate in the history of technology from MIT.
A sampling of 2019 Harvard Alumni Travels

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FRIDAY-SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6-7
Depart USA/Arrive Moscow, Russia
Upon arrival in Moscow, transfer to the hotel in the city center. Founded in 1147 by Yuri Dolgoruky (literally “Yuri of the Long Arms”), Moscow rose to prominence during Mongol domination and eventually became the Russian capital. Moscow today is a booming metropolis, dignified yet dynamic, where ancient churches sit shoulder to shoulder with 21st-century financial institutions. Meet fellow participants at a welcome dinner.

(In flight, 1D) InterContinental Tverskaya or similar

SUNDAY-MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8-9
Moscow • Star City
Visit the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center, or GCTC, in the once highly classified and secretive Star City. The center was established in 1960, and since 1968 has been named for Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space. On April 12, 1961, Gagarin was launched into space on board Russia’s secret Vostok spacecraft and returned safely to Earth, the first manned space flight in the history of humankind. Today the GCTC remains the premier training facility for Russian cosmonauts and foreign astronauts planning manned space flights.

Trace the evolution of the Soviet space program, explore the Mir Space Station Simulator (the Mir was operational from 1986-2001), and learn about Russian-American cooperation in space that the GCTC supports by training joint crews on the simulator of the International Space Station. Visit the Soyuz-TMA integrated simulator and the ISS mock-up. At the massive hydro lab, Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory, learn how crews acquire skills for operations on the external surface of the orbital station under simulated weightless conditions. The world’s largest centrifuge, used for simulating G-loads, is on the program as well.

Enjoy lunch in the Star City cafeteria, which is used by the crewmembers in training and other facilitators of the Star City complex.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
Moscow • fly to Baikonur, Kazakhstan
Transfer to the airport for a flight to the Baikonur Cosmodrome, located on the remote steppe of Kazakhstan. On arrival, enjoy an opportunity for a lecture, and
prepare for the upcoming days in Baikonur. (1B, L inflight, 1D) Hotel Sputnik or similar

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11-13

**Baikonur**

This part of the program begins with an early-morning viewing of the roll-out of the Soyuz Rocket. This up-close-and-personal sight is awe-inspiring. Follow the Soyuz to the launch pad site and watch the raising of the rocket together with the press, military personnel, cosmonauts and their relatives. Tour the sites around Baikonur, including the main launch pad, the “Gagarin Start,” where the Sputnik launches took place, and mingle with the press and other guests. Visit the Baikonur Museum, the Yuri Gagarin and Sergei Korolev living apartments, and the monument to the beginning of the Space Age.

All through these three days experience behind-the-scenes events, including the roll-out and raising of the Soyuz, send-off from the Cosmonaut Hotel, and the Space Crew ready-to-go official report. In between, visit launch pads, assembly and integration buildings, and other sites throughout the Baikonur Cosmodrome.

On the day of the manned space launch, the crew will be taken to the Soyuz after their final ready-to-go report. Transfer to the special launch viewing area to watch the launch of the Soyuz. You’ll experience the countdown, see the breathtaking launch as the spacecraft lifts off the pad, and feel the power as it makes its way out of the Earth’s atmosphere. (3B, 3L, 3D) Hotel Sputnik or similar

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

**Baikonur • fly to Moscow**

This morning after breakfast, transfer to the airport for the flight from the Baikonur Cosmodrome back to Moscow. Depending on the final flight times, there should be time for dinner this evening at a Moscow restaurant. (1B, L in flight, 1D) InterContinental Tverskaya or similar

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

**Moscow**

Explore Moscow’s UNESCO-listed Novodevichy Convent, whose main attraction is its cemetery. Such luminaries as Gogol, Chekhov, Khrushchev, Raisa Gorbachev, and Boris Yeltsin are buried here, as well as a number of prominent cosmonauts, and some of the graves are quite fanciful.

Take a private tour of the Cold War Museum Bunker. Over 200 feet below Moscow is the Secured Command Post “Tagansky,” an abandoned relic of the Cold War built to withstand a nuclear attack. Stocked with food and provisions, the 75,000-square-foot space was meant to sustain 5,000 people for three months. Ordered by Stalin in 1951, the shelter was finished in 1956, and soon became a secret communication bunker and, reportedly, a missile control center. A tour of the formerly secret bunker includes a video presentation on the Cold War.

Raise a toast to your out-of-this-world journey during a festive farewell dinner. (1B, 1L, 1D) InterContinental Tverskaya or similar

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

**Depart Moscow**

The journey concludes with transfers to the airport. (B, in flight)
The Soyuz rocket rolls out of the hangar bottom end first, all its ports wrapped in red protective coverings.

Program Highlights

- Enjoy unparalleled access to VIP viewing areas and briefing sessions at the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.
- Get up close and personal in Baikonur with cosmodrome workers, officials, and former and current cosmonauts at the pre-launch activities, including the roll-out of the Soyuz from the assembly hanger to the launch pad, the Raising of the Rocket ceremony, and the walk along the Alley of Cosmonauts.
- Witness the launch of the Soyuz rocket on its way to the International Space Station, from a special viewing area.

Cost

- $13,995 per person double occupancy
- $15,090 single occupancy

GROUP SIZE: 8-24*

*Co-sponsored trip with MIT Alumni Travel

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING AIR ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS PROGRAM: The dates of this program rely on the Soyuz launch date, and are therefore subject to change. Given the possibility of launch dates changing, travelers are cautioned not to purchase non-refundable/non-changeable air tickets.

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A look inside a Soyuz descent capsule.
Terms & Conditions

TOUR COST INCLUSIONS
Lectures by study leader; accommodations and meals as listed in the detailed itinerary; private coach for all touring and transportation per the itinerary; group arrival and departure transfers if arriving / departing on the start / end dates; all sightseeing and excursions including entrance fees per itinerary; local English speaking guides; special cultural features as stated in itinerary; services of a tour manager throughout the program; special Welcome & Farewell receptions; bottled /purified water with meals; beverages, local beer and wine with lunches/dinners; all gratuities including to tour manager, local guides, drivers; baggage handling at the hotels and train station where available; $200,000 medevac emergency evacuation insurance.

TOUR COST EXCLUSIONS
International airfare between the U.S. and the start and ending cities; air taxes or fuel surcharges; pre- or post-tour services; independent travel arrangements, visa or passport fees; medical and trip cancellation/interruption insurance; evacuation costs; food or beverages not included in group meals; items of a personal nature such as laundry, alcohol, telephone expense, excess baggage fees, photo/video expenses inside museums (where allowed); other items not expressly listed as included.

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, & FINAL PAYMENT
To reserve a space a $1,000 deposit is required per person. Please either call us at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806 or fill out and mail/fax the registration form found in the back of this brochure. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt until the maximum enrollment has been reached. Payment terms will be sent to you with your reservation confirmation from our partner company.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS
Notification of cancellation must be received in writing by HAA from the participant. If cancellation is received 91 or more days before tour start, the cost of cancellation is the non-refundable deposit of $1,000 per person. If cancellation is received 90-61 days before tour start, the cost of cancellation is 50% of land tour cost paid or due. If cancellation is received 60 days or less before tour start, there is no refund.

ITINERARY CHANGES
Itineraries contained in this brochure are available at the time of printing and HAA and the Tour Operator reserve the right to change a program or accommodations as conditions warrant.

RESPONSIBILITY
Certain other provisions apply regarding limitations of liability and rights of HAA and the tour operator. The statement of responsibility is available at https://alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/russia-space-2019. If you are not able to access the Internet, please call HAA Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806.

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QUESTIONS
Please call the Harvard Alumni Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806, email: haatravels@harvard.edu.

TOUR OPERATOR:
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Registration Form

To register, fill out this form and return to Harvard Alumni Travels with your deposit of $1,000 per person.

Please return this form by mail to:
Harvard Alumni Travels
124 Mount Auburn Street, 6th Floor, Cambridge, MA 02138
Or by FAX: 617-496-4011

Please call with any questions:
800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806

How did you hear about this trip?

PROGRAM NAME START DATE

FIRST PERSON NAME ON PASSPORT DATE OF BIRTH

EMAIL ADDRESS

STREET ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP OR POSTAL CODE

NAME TELEPHONE WORK TELEPHONE

SECOND PERSON NAME ON PASSPORT DATE OF BIRTH

EMAIL ADDRESS

STREET ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP OR POSTAL CODE

NAME TELEPHONE WORK TELEPHONE

METHOD OF DEPOSIT

CHECK (please enclose check) MASTERCARD VISA

CARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION DATE 3-DIGIT SECURITY CODE

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD

I / WE CONFIRM THAT I / WE HAVE READ AND ACCEPT THE GENERAL INFORMATION FOR THIS TOUR, INCLUDING REFUNDS AND CANCELLATIONS AND THE RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE AT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL.

SIGNATURE

SIGNATURE

ACCOMMODATIONS

DOUBLE ROOM SINGLE ROOM SHARE A ROOM WIT

ROOMMATE

CATEGORY PREFERENCE

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