

[ABC News](#)

[Video](#)

[Live](#)

[Shows](#)

▼

[538](#)

[Shop](#)

Search Headlines, News &

[Stream on](#)

**hulu**

## Out of Space or Out of Mind?

Former astronaut Edgar Mitchell said he believes aliens exist.

By ABC News

July 25, 2008, 7:45 PM

- 
- 
- 
- 

July 28, 2008 &#151; -- Of the more than 6 billion people in the world, only 12 have ever set foot on the moon, providing them the unique opportunity to peer at the Earth from hundreds of thousands of miles away.

For many, the experience appears to have changed them. The select group has returned to regular life and dispersed into a wide array of careers, spiritual and philosophical leanings, and apparent perceptions of the world they temporarily gazed at from space.

Most recently, NASA astronaut Edgar Mitchell, a member of the Apollo 14 mission that landed on the moon in 1971, elaborated on his own fluid thoughts on the universe, arguing that alien visits to Earth have been covered up by governments for more than 60 years.

"I happen to be privileged enough to be in on the fact that we have been visited on this planet and the UFO phenomenon is real," Mitchell said on Britain's Kerrang Radio last week.

"It has been covered up by governments for quite some time now," added Mitchell, who grew up in Roswell, N.M., the location of the controversial 1947 incident in which some believe the U.S. military covered up the crash scene of an alien spacecraft.

Other moon-walkers have admitted to changing after being launched into outer space -- some becoming more open-minded about the possibility of extraterrestrial life, others more spiritual, and some choosing to change career paths all together.

Alan Bean, who flew the second moon landing on Apollo 12 in 1967, became a painter after returning to Earth.

Speaking in British filmmaker David Signton's 2007 documentary "In the Shadow of the Moon," astronaut Gene Cernan, who made the last moon-landing in 1972, said he became a believer in the idea of a greater power after traveling to outer space.

"I felt that the world was just too beautiful to have happened by accident. There has to be something bigger than you and bigger than me," said Cernan in the documentary.

"And I mean this in a spiritual sense, not a religious sense," said Cernan. "There has to be a creator of the universe who stands above the religions that we ourselves create to govern our lives."

Perhaps the saddest transformation was that of Buzz Aldrin, who made the first moon landing with Neil Armstrong in 1969, and later suffered from severe depression and alcoholism, both of which he wrote about extensively in his memoir "Return to Earth."

Space historians and other former astronauts told ABCNews.com that while Mitchell's case may be extreme, those who travel into the galaxy sometimes return with an altered view of the universe -- and perhaps even about its inhabitants.

"There is some evidence that astronauts are changed by going into space," said Mike Neufeld, the chair of the space history division at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

---

[Stuck in Depression? A Brain Switch Helps Reset Your MoodNurosym](#)

Learn More

Undo

[Black Horse Refund Checker - Lookup Your Name thepcguys.co.uk](#)

Get Offer

Undo

[Own A Barrel of Whisky With Average Annual Returns of 10.15%\\* Whisky Investors](#)

Download

Undo

[Saudi Arabia says it executes 6 Iranians for drug smuggling](#)

[Undo](#)

[An Arizona prisoner is asking to be executed sooner than the state wants](#)

[Undo](#)

[Serena Williams celebrates weight loss milestone with denim skirt try-on](#)

[Undo](#)

[Own A Cask Of Whisky With Average Annual Returns of 9.06%Whisky Partners](#)

[Read More](#)

[Undo](#)

[Vagus Nerve Stimulation Devices: Which One Actually Works?Health Science](#)

[Learn More](#)

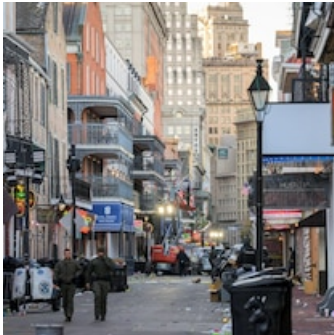
[Undo](#)

[AI Specialist Warns Of Risk From Missing This OpportunitySouth Bank Research](#)

[Learn More](#)

[Undo](#)

## Popular Reads



- [Jan 2, 10:25 PM](#)



- [Jan 4, 4:23 AM](#)



- [Jan 3, 10:17 PM](#)



## ABC News Live



24/7 coverage of breaking news and live events

[ABC News Network](#)

[About Nielsen Measurement](#)

[Children's Online Privacy Policy](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Do Not Sell or Share My Personal Information](#)

[Interest-Based Ads](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[Your US State Privacy Rights](#)

© 2025 ABC News