



1
00:00:02,120 --> 00:00:02,349

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2
00:00:02,350 --> 00:00:04,153

Narrator: Even after NASA's Space Shuttle Program comes to an end, the agency will have the unique

3
00:00:07,080 --> 00:00:13,080

opportunity to share its unparalleled tale of flying the world's first reusable spacecraft

4
00:00:13,210 --> 00:00:13,996

. . . and it will do so from its very own launch site with the help of space shuttle Atlantis.

5
00:00:18,690 --> 00:00:20,679

Charlie Bolden, Administrator/NASA: First, here at the Kennedy Space Center,

6
00:00:20,680 --> 00:00:22,226

where every shuttle and so many other historic human spaceflights have originated,

7
00:00:24,600 --> 00:00:27,200

we'll showcase my old friend, Atlantis.

8
00:00:28,630 --> 00:00:29,630

(Cheers)

9
00:00:29,950 --> 00:00:31,240

Narrator: On April 12, NASA and its design partners received the "go" they've been hoping for

10
00:00:34,860 --> 00:00:36,146

with the announcement that Atlantis will join the rockets,

11
00:00:37,440 --> 00:00:37,716

capsules and artifacts from the Mercury,

12
00:00:39,830 --> 00:00:45,030

Gemini and Apollo eras at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex in Florida.

13
00:00:45,160 --> 00:00:45,680

Described as a super-charged, space shuttle-themed science center,

14

00:00:49,040 --> 00:00:49,240

it will feature interactive exhibits to engage, entertain and inspire even the

15

00:00:54,040 --> 00:00:54,220

world's most tech-savvy audience.

16

00:00:56,060 --> 00:00:58,330

Luis Berrios, NASA Design Specialist: This very Space Shuttle Plaza will be completely transformed.

17

00:01:00,390 --> 00:01:04,723

We plan on adding to the Shuttle Launch Experience attraction and

18

00:01:05,260 --> 00:01:11,460

enhancing the storytelling with what will become a very, very large addition to this complex.

19

00:01:12,960 --> 00:01:13,996

Narrator: Inside a new 65,000-square-foot facility in the heart of the complex's Space Shuttle

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00:01:18,190 --> 00:01:23,390

Plaza, the 100-ton shuttle is expected to look like its soaring through space,

21

00:01:23,410 --> 00:01:23,786

with its landing gear raised and payload bay opened. Anchored at an angle, guests would get an

22

00:01:29,300 --> 00:01:30,266

up-close view of Atlantis' belly and the thousands of black heat shield tiles that allowed the

23

00:01:34,600 --> 00:01:34,766

shuttle to travel through Earth's harsh atmosphere more than 30 times.

24

00:01:39,100 --> 00:01:39,726

The shuttle's robot arm also could be deployed, as if reaching out to a satellite.

25

00:01:43,940 --> 00:01:45,929

Bill Moore, Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex: We started working on the design

26

00:01:45,930 --> 00:01:47,126

probably earlier than most folks had done. And we went further than everybody's done.

27

00:01:50,400 --> 00:01:50,656

We've completed an entire conceptual design. It's all drawn up, we've got a lot of

28

00:01:55,610 --> 00:01:59,476

agreement with folks at NASA about how we want to do this.

29

00:01:59,840 --> 00:02:00,903

Narrator: The display could reveal how shuttle crews performed science and research

30

00:02:04,310 --> 00:02:05,470

experiments in the weightlessness of space, helped construct the International Space Station,

31

00:02:09,350 --> 00:02:10,206

and deployed, retrieved and serviced satellites, such as NASA's treasured Hubble Space Telescope.

32

00:02:14,960 --> 00:02:15,886

It also could unveil what it felt like for an astronaut to

33

00:02:17,900 --> 00:02:18,056

venture out on the first untethered spacewalk.

34

00:02:20,810 --> 00:02:23,206

Luis Berrios, NASA Design Specialist: One of my favorite is the Manned Maneuvering Unit,

35

00:02:24,280 --> 00:02:29,813

and how that impressed everyone to watch Bruce McCandless fly untethered, out there

36

00:02:30,430 --> 00:02:35,963

completely in space without a single, you know, just looking back on everyone else.

37

00:02:36,360 --> 00:02:37,633

What must that have felt like for him? It must have been amazing.

38

00:02:39,420 --> 00:02:42,136

Narrator: Designers want to paint a picture of just how many working parts it took to

39

00:02:42,370 --> 00:02:43,146

launch NASA's fleet. There are many features that could be worked into the display to

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00:02:47,260 --> 00:02:48,133

help guests appreciate the shuttle system as a whole, including the solid rocket boosters

41

00:02:52,320 --> 00:02:57,653

and giant external fuel tank. Even structures saved during the deconstruction of

42

00:02:57,690 --> 00:03:03,290

Kennedy's Launch Pad 39B could be incorporated, such as the gaseous oxygen vent arm,

43

00:03:03,840 --> 00:03:05,620

called the "beanie cap," and the orbiter access arm, which is replete with the memories of

44

00:03:08,060 --> 00:03:13,726

astronauts walking through before waving farewell and boarding a shuttle for liftoff.

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00:03:14,420 --> 00:03:15,350

While the spacecraft and its myriad of components will be the main attraction,

46

00:03:18,690 --> 00:03:18,713

designers also dove deep into the human aspect of the program.

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00:03:22,800 --> 00:03:25,610

Luis Berrios, NASA Design Specialist: I mean, we treat our orbiters like our own family

48

00:03:25,790 --> 00:03:28,790

members and they're very close to our hearts.

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00:03:28,800 --> 00:03:31,306

Bob Cabana, Center Director/NASA's Kennedy Space Center: The Space Shuttle Program has made

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00:03:32,360 --> 00:03:35,139

possible countless scientific breakthroughs, it's produced unprecedented international

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00:03:35,140 --> 00:03:41,540

cooperation, and it's fostered a future of human exploration made up of limitless possibilities.

52

00:03:42,560 --> 00:03:48,560

Narrator: Annually, the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex reaches more than 1.5 million

53

00:03:48,600 --> 00:03:54,733

guests and by adding a flown shuttle to the mix, it's expecting a major boost in attendance.

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00:03:54,840 --> 00:03:56,589

Bob Cabana, Center Director/NASA's Kennedy Space Center: It's really important that we get

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00:03:56,590 --> 00:03:59,509

to keep an orbiter here at the Kennedy Space Center. We get over a million visitors a year.

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00:03:59,510 --> 00:04:00,333

This is the home of human spaceflight, it's the home of the space shuttle.

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00:04:03,620 --> 00:04:05,503

To be able to share that excitement, that story with all our visitors to inspire the next

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00:04:07,670 --> 00:04:08,030

generation of explorers, it's huge in being able to tell the story of human spaceflight

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00:04:13,110 --> 00:04:17,110

and of NASA. So, I think it's outstanding that Atlantis gets

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00:04:17,770 --> 00:04:21,570

to stay here with us and not leave after her last flight.

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00:04:22,050 --> 00:04:24,016

Narrator: Atlantis is scheduled to round out the shuttle program this year with its last

62

00:04:25,950 --> 00:04:30,816

flight -- STS-135. After its return from space, technicians and engineers

63

00:04:31,680 --> 00:04:33,060

will spend a few months prepping the vehicle for public display -- paving the way for a grand

64

00:04:36,500 --> 00:04:39,100

opening as early as the summer of 2013.

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00:04:40,260 --> 00:04:42,629

Charlie Bolden, Administrator/NASA: I want to congratulate all of these fine

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00:04:42,630 --> 00:04:43,813

institutions and wish them many visitors and exciting programs with the

67

00:04:46,180 --> 00:04:50,780

space shuttle fleet. For all of them, take good care of our vehicles.