



Atlantis Space Shuttle

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00:00:04,590 --> 00:00:08,870

NASA Launch Commentator: Three, two, one, zero and liftoff!

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00:00:08,870 --> 00:00:12,360

Narrator: Throughout its fifty-year history, NASA's Kennedy Space Center on Florida's

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00:00:12,360 --> 00:00:15,090

east coast has frequently been the focus of the world's

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00:00:15,090 --> 00:00:18,580

attention as astronauts rocketed into space.

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00:00:18,580 --> 00:00:23,870

But few have had an opportunity to visit key operational areas of America's spaceport.

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00:00:23,870 --> 00:00:28,240

A recent partnership between NASA and Google Maps now allows anyone with access to the

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00:00:28,240 --> 00:00:32,250

Internet to go on a behind-the-scenes tour of the space center.

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00:00:32,250 --> 00:00:36,060

You can take in the breathtaking view from the top of Launch Pad 39A --

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00:00:36,060 --> 00:00:39,730

typically seen only by the astronauts and space center employees.

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00:00:39,730 --> 00:00:43,170

Or try a virtual walk through the enormous Vehicle Assembly Building --

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00:00:43,170 --> 00:00:48,990

one of the largest structures in the world. This is where the rocket stages are stacked for launch.

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00:00:48,990 --> 00:00:53,740

In the assembly building you'll get a close-up view of the space shuttles Atlantis and Endeavour.

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00:00:53,740 --> 00:00:58,150

For thirty years these pioneering spaceships took astronauts into orbit.

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00:00:58,150 --> 00:01:03,580

Inside the main engine shop, you can inspect the powerful machines that helped boost the shuttles into space.

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00:01:03,580 --> 00:01:09,940

These amazing, and previously unavailable views are made possible by the Google team's specially-designed

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00:01:09,940 --> 00:01:17,940

These cameras are mounted on a variety of vehicles ? an SUV, a three-wheeled tricycle, and even a small hand

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00:01:17,940 --> 00:01:22,420

The three-wheeled tricycle was used to get to spots the SUV is too big to cover,

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00:01:22,420 --> 00:01:25,620

while the handcart is meant for even smaller places.

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00:01:25,620 --> 00:01:29,140

Combined, the Google team used these tools to record multi-directional,

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00:01:29,140 --> 00:01:33,980

360-degree views of the center's most famous sites.

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00:01:33,980 --> 00:01:38,990

These historic landmarks include the consoles in the Launch Control Center Firing Rooms.

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00:01:38,990 --> 00:01:43,940

Imagine the tension-filled moments as NASA managers and engineers ensured everything was

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00:01:43,940 --> 00:01:47,130

"Go for launch", and now you can go there.

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00:01:47,130 --> 00:01:52,460

You can also step back in history, walking beside a 363-foot Saturn Five rocket

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00:01:52,460 --> 00:01:57,760

like those which sent astronauts to the moon during the 1960s and early '70s.

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00:01:57,760 --> 00:02:03,490

To begin your virtual tour, go to maps-dot-Google-dot-com-slash-streetview.

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00:02:03,490 --> 00:02:07,550

You can also use Google Maps to navigate to Kennedy Space Center, and then switch to