

## Space Tourism

by Michelle K. Beckett



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Seeing the Earth from space is something that only a few hundred people have ever done. But that could soon change because the space tourism industry expects to have thousands of passengers by the end of the next decade.

Space tourism is being called the ultimate trip, with incredible views, the experience of weightlessness and supersonic speeds.

American multimillionaire Dennis Tito became the world's first space tourist in 2001, travelling for a price of around \$20 million.

Imagine roughly ten years ago and the idea of sending tourists into space seemed more like science fiction than a viable business plan. Now, there are at least a dozen space tourism companies worldwide, offering experiences that range from a flight into space to astronaut training on a tropical island.

Space Adventures' charges \$100 million per seat, for two weeks aboard a modified Russian spacecraft with the chance to see the Earth rise and travel around the Moon.

For \$200,000 Virgin Galactic passengers can take a two-hour flight to the fringe of space, where they will experience weightlessness and see a view of the Earth 1,000 miles in any direction.

So, when are you going to book your space holiday??