TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW YOU WILL BE MORE DISAPPOINTED BY THE THINGS THAT YOU DIDN’T DO THAN BY THE ONES YOU DID DO.

SO THROW OFF THE BOWLINES. SAIL AWAY. CATCH THE TRADE WINDS IN YOUR SAILS.

EXPLORE,

DREAM,

DISCOVER.
THE DREAM
We live in an age of extraordinary innovation. We accept a pace of change that even our most recent ancestors could not have imagined. Almost anything is possible and almost everything is available.

Strange then, that putting men and women into space, a pinnacle of human achievement that was conquered almost half a century ago, has remained completely out of reach to the millions who dream of crossing the final frontier.

It’s easy to make promises that this will change, but hard proof is what matters which is why Virgin Galactic is different. We have a new, better and proven way to get to space, one that overcomes so many of the barriers of the past.

WE NEED AFFORDABLE SPACE TRAVEL TO INSPIRE OUR YOUTH, TO LET THEM KNOW THAT THEY CAN EXPERIENCE THEIR DREAMS, CAN SET SIGNIFICANT GOALS AND BE IN A POSITION TO LEAD ALL OF US TO FUTURE PROGRESS IN EXPLORATION, DISCOVERY AND FUN.

Burt Rutan, Founder, Chief Technical Officer & Designer Emeritus
THE REALITY

VMS Eve prepares for flight at sunrise, Mojave

Mark Greenberg
After the history making flights of SpaceShipOne in 2004, Virgin Galactic was born and work started on creating the world’s first commercial spaceline. Based on the prototype SpaceShipOne, the new generation of Virgin Galactic spacecraft has been designed to provide the ultimate space flight experience.

On December 7 2009, VSS Enterprise, Virgin Galactic’s first passenger carrying spaceship was unveiled to the world. Across the globe, hundreds of Virgin Galactic future astronauts are preparing to turn their dreams into reality.

THIS IS NOT THE END... BUT IT'S A VERY GOOD BEGINNING.

Burt Rutan on the space flights of SpaceShipOne
THE EXPERIENCE
The new generation

A climb to 50,000ft before a safe air
release. A brief moment of quiet then the
rocket engine ignites...

After 2 days of flight preparation and meeting
with your crew, you’re suited up and raring
to go. The climb to 50,000ft is marked with
quiet contemplation but there’s an air of
confidence and eager anticipation.

With awe-inspiring power, the spaceship
accelerates to around 3000 mph or nearly
4 times the speed of sound.

Then the countdown to release, a brief
moment of quiet before a wave of unimaginable
but controlled power surges through the
craft. You are instantly pinned back into your
seat, overwhelmed but enthralled by the howl
of the rocket motor and the eye-watering
acceleration which, as you watch the read-out,
has you traveling in a matter of seconds, at
almost 3000mph, nearly 4 times the speed
of sound.

Outside SpaceShipTwo’s windows the soft
blue atmosphere melts into the black
infinity of space.

As you hurtle through the atmosphere’s
edges, the large windows show the sky
turning from cobalt blue to black. You’re on a
high, you’re loving it. You start to relax, but in
an instant your senses are back on full alert,
the world contained in your spaceship has
completely transformed.

The rocket shuts down.

Instant silence. Instant weightlessness.
Instant elation.

The rocket motor has been switched off and
it’s not just quiet, it’s QUIET. The silence of
space is awe inspiring. What’s really getting
your senses screaming now though, is that
the gravity which has dominated every
movement since the day you were born is
not there anymore.

THERE ARE OVER 6 BILLION PEOPLE
ON EARTH, TO BE 1 OF 6 ASTRONAUTS
IN SPACE LOOKING DOWN ON THEM
WILL BE A VERY SPECIAL THING.

Michiel Mol
Future Astronaut

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There are currently over 6 billion people
on Earth, to be 1 of 6 astronauts in space
looking down on them will be a very special thing.

Michiel Mol
Future Astronaut
There is no up and no down and you’re out of your seat experiencing the freedom that even your dreams underestimated.

After a graceful mid-space somersault you find yourself at a large window. What you see is a view that you’ve seen in countless images but the reality is so much more beautiful and provokes emotions that are strong but hard to define.
YOU CANNOT APPRECIATE THE EXPERIENCE JUST BY LOOKING AT A MAGAZINE COVER... TO TAKE IT IN WITH YOUR OWN EYES, EVERYTHING YOU FEEL IN YOUR BODY IS THE SAME, IT IS... WOW.

Brian Binnie
Test Pilot of SpaceShipOne
CROSSING THE FINAL FRONTIER - HOW HIGH WILL YOU FLY?

MAXIMUM PLANNED ALTITUDE, BEFORE UNPOWERED RETURN TO EARTH

SPACESHIP TWO PASSES THE KARMAN LINE TO ENTER SPACE

SPACESHIP TWO DE-FEATHERS TO GLIDE HOME

WHITE KNIGHT TWO RELEASES SPACESHIP TWO

CROSSING THE FINAL FRONTIER - HOW HIGH WILL YOU FLY?

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CROSSING THE FINAL FRONTIER - HOW HIGH WILL YOU FLY?
Then you’re back to your reclined seat and gravity is starting to return. The deceleration produces strong G forces, but you’re lying down to ease the intensity. You feel the feathered wings of the spacecraft producing a powerful drag as the thickness of the atmosphere increases, although out of the windows it still looks like space.

The G forces quickly ease off and you hear the pilot announce the start of the glide home. Home sweet home.

Later that evening, after the celebrations and being awarded your astronaut wings, you know that life will never quite be the same again.

*WE SHALL NOT CEASE FROM EXPLORATION, AND THE END OF ALL OUR EXPLORING WILL BE TO ARRIVE WHERE WE STARTED AND KNOW THE PLACE FOR THE FIRST TIME.*

T.S. Eliot
The Astronauts

Claire Brown, 46

“I want to see our planet. The 1960’s moon landings did it; I was hooked before I could barely run, let alone fly. My interest in visiting space is about as old as my first glimpse of the moon.”

Justin, 42

“The reason I wanted to go galactic is quite simple... I have a chalkboard of life. Things I want to achieve in my few years on this planet... Nothing could be bigger or better than going into space.”

Sonja, 33

“I will experience what it means to make a childhood dream a reality! To be so closely involved in this historic project from the very beginning and to witness each milestone on the way into space first hand is fascinating! I am able to see from very close up how a new era of space travel begins.”

The Virgin Galactic future astronauts have formed the world’s most exclusive club.

Their pioneering drive and enthusiasm for the project has combined to create a unique and active community.

Timothy, 50

“Who wouldn’t want to? I love flying and this is going to be the ultimate flight! It’s the opportunity of a lifetime - to experience the thrill of riding a rocket into space and then being able to wonder in silence at the incredible beauty of the planet below. I am sure we will never forget it.”

Sonja, 33

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Evolving Technology
EVOLVING TECHNOLOGY

Before SpaceShipOne and WhiteKnightOne, space launch technology had remained largely unchanged since its earliest days. It had not had the benefit of much private sector innovation or competition and was closely tied to military capabilities and the ambitions of the world’s super powers.

Virgin Galactic’s VSS Enterprise will share much of the same basic design and technology as SpaceShipOne but goes a stage further by meeting safety and comfort levels necessary to enable a wide diversity of passengers to become astronauts without specialist skills or experience.

This is the first time that a spaceship has been built with these considerations at the absolute forefront of the design and construction process.

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SpaceShipTwo uses all the same basic technology, carbon composite construction and design as SpaceShipOne. However it is around twice as large as that vehicle and will carry six passengers and two pilots.

Each passenger seat benefits from two large windows: one to the side and one overhead. So, if you don’t want to float free in space and you’d rather just remain in your seat you’ll still get a great view.

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SAFETY FIRST
Burt Rutan’s innovative design revolutionized safety in space travel. The use of an air release coupled with a controllable hybrid rocket engine offers many system back-ups. The unique ‘feathered’ re-entry technology, relying on the laws of physics as opposed to human judgement or computers, slows the spacecraft so that re-entry is relatively care free and always at the correct angle. This approach ensured the safe spaceflights during 2004 and gave Virgin the reassurance it needed to take things to the next stage.

The spaceship can be thought of as an air released glider with a rocket motor and extra systems for spaceflight. Just like any conventional flying machine, it requires aerodynamic forces to provide its stability and control which it only has whilst in the atmosphere.

In space the force of gravity gradually slows the spaceship before pulling it back towards Earth. During this period the pilots are able to maneuver the vehicle to provide a changing view. The spaceship is powered by a hybrid rocket motor. This type of system is not a new idea but offers important safety and environmental advantages over liquid or solid systems that are more commonly used on manned space vehicles. In particular, it means that the pilots will be able to shut down the SpaceShipTwo rocket motor at any time during its operation and glide safely back to the runway.

**Technical Snapshot of Virgin Galactic’s SpaceShipTwo**

- **Launch Altitude:** Above 45,000ft — 14,000 meters
- **Pay Load:** 6 passenger astronauts + 2 pilot astronauts
- **2nd stage of sub-orbital launch system:**
  - 1.500m = 15.5km: Launch from mothership to mach 4
  - 2.000m = 100km: Kármán Line; passengers become astronauts
  - 3.061m = 110km: Maximum altitude. Wings feather after rocket burn
  - 4. Re-entry initiated
  - 5. 70,000ft / 21.5km: Wings de-feather for the glide home

**Carbon Composite Construction**

Scaled Composites – and the clue is in the name – builds its vehicles with the maximum use of composite construction techniques. Both WhiteKnightTwo and SpaceShipTwo are no exception. WhiteKnightTwo is the largest all-composite aircraft ever built. Carbon fiber composite is an extraordinary material; four times the strength of steel and a quarter of its weight, meaning less energy is required to propel both vehicles.

Not only is it very light and strong, but it also has a virtually unlimited fatigue life, as long as the stresses are kept below the ultimate, it does not deteriorate in use in the same way that metal fatigues. It is also easy to modify additional pieces.

Scaled’s unique understanding of carbon composite construction techniques in aerospace design is key to the safer by design philosophy that has been central to the Virgin Galactic project.

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**SAFETY IS VIRGIN GALACTIC’S NORTH STAR**

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Pre-Flight Experience Program. Our goal is to provide you with the most incredible experience of your life. The trip will be intense, exhilarating, and the more that can be simulated beforehand, the better the real thing will be.

There will be 2 days of pre-flight preparation, bonding and training onsite at the spaceport. Learning how to make the most of your time in zero gravity and tips on how to be the most comfortable with higher levels of G forces will form an important part of your preparation.

We expect to use the WhiteKnightTwo carrier aircraft, which will feature a duplicate SpaceShipTwo cabin, as an integral part of the preparation experience. Your pre-flight preparation will ensure that you are mentally and physically prepared to savor every second of your spaceflight.

One of Virgin Galactic’s primary objectives is to end the exclusivity that has been attached to manned space travel, by designing a vehicle which can fly almost anyone to space and back safely...

Basic emergency response training, prescribed by our regulators will be at the forefront. Activities to familiarize you with the spaceflight environment will follow a close second.

Everything about your pre-flight and flight experience will be recorded and provided to you to relive the experience and share it with your family and friends.

Virgin Galactic will establish its worldwide headquarters in New Mexico, USA and will operate its spaceflights from Spaceport America, the world’s first purpose built, commercial spaceport, which is located in the southern part of the state. Designed by renowned architects, Foster + Partners, and funded by New Mexico, Spaceport America will provide cutting edge facilities and a stunning location for aspiring astronauts to realize their dreams.