



## News Release

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## **Saint Louis Science Center to Host Special Exhibition, *Destination Moon: The Apollo 11 Mission in 2018***

*Science Center is one of four museums nationwide to host exhibition*

**ST. LOUIS (Jan. 30, 2018)** — The Saint Louis Science Center is one of four museums nationwide – and the only in the Midwest – to host *Destination Moon: The Apollo 11 Mission*, a traveling special exhibition from the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. The exhibition – toured by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) – will feature the Apollo 11 command module Columbia, as well as 20 artifacts from the historic mission that landed man on the moon. It will be open at the Saint Louis Science Center from April 14 to Sept. 3, 2018. Tickets go on sale on March 1.

“St. Louis played a vital role in the Space Race, with the city being home to the development of Mercury and Gemini technology and components of the Apollo program,” said Bert Vescolani, president and CEO. “We are honored to have the opportunity to host this exhibition in St. Louis. We know that for many people this will be a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see these historic artifacts.”

Through original Apollo 11-flown objects, models, videos and interactives, visitors can learn about the historic journey of the Apollo 11 crew—Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Buzz Aldrin. *Destination Moon* includes an interactive 3-D tour, created from high-resolution scans of Columbia performed at the Smithsonian in spring 2016. The interactive experience allows visitors to explore the entire craft including its intricate interior, inaccessible to the public until now.

On July 24, 1969, Apollo 11 met President John F. Kennedy’s 1961 challenge of “landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the Earth.” The exhibition explores what led the United States to accept this challenge and how the resulting 953,054-mile voyage to the moon and back was accomplished just eight years after the program was authorized. *Destination Moon* examines the mission and sheds light on some of the more than 400,000 people employed in NASA programs, who worked through the trials, tragedies and triumphs of the 20 missions from 1961 to 1969 before Apollo 11.

“In addition to hosting this historic exhibition, we are so excited that the Saint Louis Science Center is going to augment the visitor experience with some of our own collections, other artifacts on loan, as well as new exhibits and experiences created for *Destination Moon*. Guests will learn the important role that St. Louis played in the Space Race, some historic context on life in the 1960s, an exploration of the



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future of space travel, and exhibit experiences that challenge what we know about living and working in space,” said Vescolani.

The tour will mark the first time Columbia will leave the National Air and Space Museum since the museum opened to the public in 1976. Before entering the collection, the command module traveled on a 50-state tour throughout 1970 and 1971 covering more than 26,000 miles. It then went on display in the Smithsonian’s Arts and Industries Building before the current National Air and Space Museum was built on the National Mall.

In addition to the Apollo 11 command module Columbia, the exhibition will feature:

- Aldrin’s Extravehicular Visor: Buzz Aldrin wore this outer helmet while on the surface of the moon. It fit over his clear pressure-bubble helmet.
- Aldrin’s Extravehicular Gloves: These gloves have an outer, cut-resistant shell of Chromel-R fabric across the hands to prevent fatal air leaks caused by handling sharp objects and gauntlets to protect against solar heating. The blue fingertips were made of silicone rubber to provide more sensitivity for touching.
- Rucksack #1, Survival Kit: One of two rucksacks filled with equipment to help the crew survive for up to 48 hours in the event of an emergency landing somewhere on Earth. The kit includes three water containers, a radio beacon and spare battery, three pairs of sunglasses, six packages of desalting chemicals, a seawater desalter kit, two survival lights, a machete and two bottles of sunscreen.
- Star Chart: The chart shows the positions of the sun, moon and stars at the time Apollo 11 was scheduled to leave Earth’s orbit and head for the moon.

Vescolani said, “*Destination Moon* will help visitors of all ages to appreciate the accomplishment of the moon landing and all of the work that went into making it happen. We hope the exhibition inspires our guests to think about what is next in space discovery. Perhaps one of them will play a role in exploring Mars and beyond.”

*Destination Moon: The Apollo 11 Mission* is made possible by the support of Jeff and MacKenzie Bezos, Joe Clark, Bruce R. McCaw Family Foundation, the Charles and Lisa Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences, John and Susann Norton, and Gregory D. and Jennifer Walston Johnson. Transportation services for *Destination Moon* are provided by FedEx.

### **Saint Louis Science Center**

The mission of the Saint Louis Science Center is to ignite and sustain lifelong science and technology learning. Named a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate in 2016, the Saint Louis Science Center features more than 700 interactive exhibits, as well as a five-story OMNIMAX® Theater, Boeing Hall and the James S. McDonnell Planetarium. For more information about the Saint Louis Science Center, please visit [slsc.org](http://slsc.org).

### **National Air and Space Museum**

The National Air and Space Museum building on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., is located at Sixth Street and Independence Avenue S.W. The museum’s Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center is located in Chantilly, Va., near Washington Dulles International Airport. Attendance at both buildings combined exceeded 9 million in 2016, making it the most visited museum in America. The museum’s research, collections, exhibitions and programs focus on aeronautical history, space history and planetary studies. Both buildings are open from 10 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. every day (closed Dec. 25).



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Visit online at [airandspace.si.edu/DestinationMoon](http://airandspace.si.edu/DestinationMoon).

**Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES)**

SITES has been sharing the wealth of Smithsonian collections and research programs with millions of people outside Washington, D.C., for 65 years. SITES connects Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science, and history, which are shown wherever people live, work and play. For exhibition description and tour schedules, visit [sites.si.edu](http://sites.si.edu).



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