



# *SPACE TOURISM*

# Some basic info



- ▶ Space tourism is space travel for leisure or business purposes.
- ▶ Virgin Galactic and XCOR Aerospace are the most well renowned space tourism companies. Space tourism opportunities have been limited and expensive, with only the Russian Space Agency providing transport nowadays.
- ▶ Between 2001–2009, 7 space tourists have made 8 space flights.


# Famous space tourists

- ▶ Dennis Tito-8 days (April 28 – May 6 2001)
- ▶ Mark Shuttleworth-11 days (April 25 – May 5 2002)
- ▶ Gregory Olsen-11 days (October 1 – 11 2005)
- ▶ Anousheh Ansari-12 days (September 18 – 29 2006)
- ▶ Guy Laliberte-11 days (September 30 – October 11 2009)

# Attitudes towards space tourism

- ▶ A survey conducted suggested that over 70% of those surveyed wanted less than two weeks in space, 88% wanted to spacewalk and 21% wanted a hotel or space station.
- ▶ The concept has met with some criticism from some people, with the most notable one being Günter Verheugen, vice-president of the European Commission, who said that space tourism is only for the super rich, which is against his social convictions.

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- ▶ A 2010 report from the Federal Aviation Administration (a national authority which can regulate all aspects of civil aviation) predicted that space tourism could become a billion-dollar market within 20 years. In addition, since the time Dennis Tito travelled to the International Space Station, eight private citizens have paid \$20 million to travel to space. Space adventure travel could increase fifteen-fold by 2020.

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- ▶ Generally, space tourism, which sounds really appealing-and profitable for companies-, is a luxury that only few can afford. In my opinion, the money spent on space tourism could be used for more important reasons. Perhaps, someday, we will be able to afford a visit and have a chance to cruise through our solar system.