



SPACE-X-PLORE 2027 – PROVISIONAL ITINERARY

Powered by Global Learning Expeditions

Day 1: Australia to San Francisco, California, San Francisco City Tour, Golden Gate Bridge

Depart **Australia** for **San Francisco** in **California**. Upon arrival in **San Francisco**, clear customs and immigration, and then meet your coach.

Take in the sights and sounds of the City by The Bay with a narrated coach tour of San Francisco. First up visit the **Golden Gate Bridge Visitors Centre** to learn about this engineering marvel before **walking the entire length of the bridge**, enjoying the spectacular scenery from the top of the bridge. Since it opened in 1937, this 2.7km bridge spans between **San Francisco** and **Marin Counties** and has become one of the most beloved bridges in the world. A work of art and an American icon, the Bridge is flanked on both ends by the natural beauty of the **Golden Gate National Parks**.

Some of the things you may see today include North Beach, Little Italy, Chinatown, the Presidio, the Painted Ladies at Alamo Square, Sausalito, and a panoramic view of the city from Twin Peaks.

On return from your city tour dinner will be at a local Pier 39 restaurant this evening.

Overnight: San Francisco / Pier 39 Hotel

Day 2: USS Hornet, Exploratorium [B]

First up today, we visit the **USS Hornet**, an **original WWII aircraft carrier** that has been transformed into an interactive museum. Travel over the impressive **San Francisco–Oakland Bay Bridge** which is a huge 7,180m in length, constructed in 1933 and carries about 260,000 vehicles per day over its two decks.

On arrival at the **USS Hornet**, the group takes part in the **S.T.E.M. to Stern Program**, a unique and original program developed by the museum. See how chemistry, physics and mathematics apply to the operational functions of a **World War II aircraft carrier**. The historic surroundings of the **USS Hornet** offer a one-of-a-kind learning environment for exploring these concepts by giving you a perspective on modern technology, whilst offering a comparison to that of the past.

During our day we investigate how:

- ✓ thermodynamics and electromagnetism allowed the USS Hornet to use seawater to power the ship while cruising the ocean.
- ✓ waves are used to track objects and communicate on board as well as between ships and aircraft.
- ✓ Hydraulics, simple machines, wind, and the ship itself helped launch a 19,000lb jet off the flight deck.
- ✓ pilots and sailors use vector mathematics to plot a course.
- ✓ chemistry, physics, and mathematics contribute to the operational functions of a WWII aircraft carrier.
- ✓ science and technology have played a part throughout history.
- ✓ modern technology compares with vintage technology.

After your guided tour on the USS Hornet board the bus and head to the **Exploratorium interactive museum at Pier 15**. Since 1969 the Exploratorium has been sparking enthusiastic explorers, original thinking, and brave leaps forward! You've probably never been to a place quite like the Exploratorium. Here you're invited to ask questions and question answers. The 600-plus exhibits you'll find inside the Exploratorium are people-powered, meaning you make them go. See **STEM in action** when you roll up your sleeves and push, pull, crank, twist, and turn them. We think the most exciting way to experience scientific phenomena is to encounter them face to face. Are you prepared to play? By the time you leave we believe you will see the world in a whole new way. Be sure to make some time to grab some lunch at the café.

After the Exploratorium the afternoon is at your leisure. Explore the Fisherman's Wharf area, visit the local sea lions at Pier 39, enjoy some retail therapy at Union Square or catch a famous cable car.

Dinner will be your choice this evening, with plenty of fantastic Pier 39 restaurants to choose from, allowing you flexibility with your evening.

Overnight: San Francisco / Pier 39 Hotel

Day 3: San Francisco to Orlando, Florida [B, D]

This morning we make our way to **San Francisco airport** for our flight to **Orlando, Florida**. Lunch will be on the run at the airport today (at your own expense). Upon arrival in Orlando, transfer to your hotel. **Dinner** is at the hotel tonight, followed by some rest. You have an incredible three days coming up at the **NASA Kennedy Space Center!**

Overnight: Orlando Hotel

Day 4: Kennedy Space Center 3-day Camp – ATX Astronaut Training Experience [B, L, D]

Put your space suits on, because today after breakfast you are off to the incredible **NASA Kennedy Space Center (KSC)!**

KSC is 100% funded by visitors and is fully controlled and operated by **NASA**, meaning **everything** in the center, even down to the toilet paper in the restrooms is all **NASA** certified!

The **KSC** is also a fully operational rocket launching site, meaning this is the "real deal", with around **two rockets launching every month** from here! If you are lucky, you may see a real rocket launch off into space! The center is also staffed by **real astronauts**, regularly taking part in training and educational talks.

Though **NASA** can't guarantee the order of your program you will take part in the **Camp KSC International 3-day** program covering the below over the next 3 days.

The program will begin with the **NASA** certified **ATX Astronaut Training Experience**, an original program not available anywhere else.

This program gives you the opportunity to **train as real astronauts**, as the next generation of space explorers.

Throughout the day the group will:

- ✓ See and feel what it would be like to live and work on Mars and learn about the challenges of preparing for the journey to the Red Planet.
- ✓ Experience how real astronauts train in mission simulators such as the **Land-and-Drive-on-Mars** full motion simulator, the **Walk-on-Mars** virtual reality simulator, and the **Micro-Gravity** floor simulator.
- ✓ Perform **two spacecraft launch mission simulations** inside the full-scale **Orion** capsule from an authentic **Mission Control Center**.

Today is all about teamwork, communication, and collaboration. These skills will be developed as you each take turns in the **Training Control Center**, guiding one another through a series of challenges. After ATX you will receive an electronic report detailing your achievements along with a video log that is recorded during the program.

After ATX Astronaut Training it's time to board your **Kennedy Explore Bus Tour** which takes you **behind-the-scenes** at Kennedy Space Centre, making several stops to capture once-in-a-lifetime photo opportunities of **rocket launch pads**, the iconic **Vehicle Assembly Building, Apollo/Saturn V Center** and the historic **Launch Complex 39**. Access restricted areas of this working spaceflight facility where America launched to the moon and where NASA plans to launch astronauts into deep space! After a full day of space exploration return to your hotel to relax followed by dinner.

Overnight: Orlando Hotel

Day 5: Kennedy Space Center 3-day Camp – Mars Base 1 [B, L, D]

Continue with your immersion into the future of space exploration at **Mars Base 1**. Today our group has the opportunity to visit and work in a **fully immersive simulation of a prototype Mars Base!**

Ride in an elevator to the top of the launch tower to board your spacecraft for the journey to Mars. We are going to be fully briefed about our mission, the history of Mars and what to expect when we arrive on the red planet. Experience a real Mars landing, being driven to basecamp and guided tour of the first of the three duty stations.

Here we are going to conduct real science experiments, solve engineering challenges, use robotics, and defy gravity in a microgravity simulation. These include the **Mars Operation Center**, managing emergencies, the **Engineering Lab** whereby we test and develop a team of robots and restore power to the base.

Lastly, we work on **NASA's Veggie Project by planting, harvesting, and analysing vegetables** in a series of controlled experiments. Remember, anyone can do these activities - you don't need to be top of your class in physics and best of all its FUN! Late in the day, return to Earth and board your space bus back to the hotel, followed by your choice of dinner at the **Universal City Walk**, outdoor dining, shopping, and entertainment complex.

Overnight: Orlando Hotel

Day 6: Kennedy Space Center 3-day Camp – Bus Tour, Exhibits, Astronaut Encounter Session, Flight to Los Angeles, California [B, L]

Today is another huge day! We spend all day at the **KSC Visitor Complex**. Enjoy a guided tour of the park, including the behind-the-scenes bus tour where you can view many famous launching pads, as well as a private astronaut encounter!

During your program today, you can experience the following amazing exhibits:

- ✓ Space Shuttle Atlantis
- ✓ Astronaut encounter presentation and Q&A
- ✓ Shuttle Launch Experience
- ✓ Heroes and Legends featuring the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame
- ✓ Journey to Mars: Explorers Wanted – Live shows every 30 minutes
- ✓ IMAX Theatre 3D films 'Journey to Space 3D' and 'Asteroid Hunters'
- ✓ A real Rocket Launch Viewing twice per month (depending on the dates of your groups visit)
- ✓ Numerous Shows and Exhibits

A daily program is provided on arrival at Kennedy but may include:

- ✓ Science on a Sphere-Live
- ✓ NASA Now Show
- ✓ Rocket Garden Tours
- ✓ Astronaut Autograph Signing
- ✓ Eyes on the Solar Eclipse
- ✓ Eyes on the Universe 3D presentation in the Astronaut Encounter Theatre
- ✓ Mission Status Briefing

This afternoon take part in an astronaut encounter session run **by a veteran astronaut** with an open question and answer session and the opportunity to ask anything you've ever wanted to know about space! Afterwards, **graduate from KSC** and receive your certificates before we make our way to **Orlando airport** for our flight to **Los Angeles**. Grab some dinner 'on the run' at the airport before our flight. On arrival in **Los Angeles**, transfer to your hotel in **Anaheim**.

Overnight: Los Angeles Hotel

Day 7: Knott's Berry Farm Physics Program, Park Day, Hollywood night tour [B, D]

Knott's Berry Farm is a huge 160-acre amusement park featuring dozens of rides, shows, attractions, and some of the biggest rollercoasters in the whole world!

In the morning, we will take part in the coolest new physics and science program called **Energy in Motion** where we learn all about the physics of the rides and rollercoasters in the park. The best part is that you get to ride them all for the rest of the day! Some of the more thrilling rides are the **Xcelerator** and the **Silver Bullet**. The newest ride, **HangTime**, is the first and only dive coaster in California, which towers 45m above the Boardwalk area, showcases a beyond vertical drop, gravity-defying inversions, and mid-air suspensions.

Late afternoon, head off on your **Hollywood night tour** and checkout the one and only Hollywood with a full narrated tour and time to walk around and soak it all in. Return to the hotel for dinner.

Overnight: Los Angeles Hotel

Day 8: Disneyland Free Park Day [B]

After breakfast you will be transferred to **Disneyland – The Happiest Place on Earth!** Visit the Home of Walt Disney, Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck, and all of your favourite Disney characters. At the park you can spend the day touring through the Nine Lands which make up Disneyland, including **Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge land**. While enjoying fun rides such as **Space Mountain, Thunder Mountain Railway, Indiana Jones and Pirates of the Caribbean**. Make sure you stop for lunch and dinner at one of the many themed eateries within the park (own expense).

Overnight: Los Angeles Hotel

Day 9: Universal Studios, Flight to Australia [B]

Today, we pack our bags and head to **Universal Studios** in **Hollywood**. **Take a tour of the back lot** and see where movies are made! Enjoy rides such as **Jurassic World, Revenge of the Mummy, Transformers: The Ride-3D, Despicable Me Ride, Mario Kart Ride in Super Nintendo World** and the **Fast and the Furious – Supercharged Ride**.

Don't forget to see what awaits you in **The Wizarding World of Harry Potter!** From magical spells to magical creatures, from dark villains to daring heroes. Explore the mysteries of **Hogwarts Castle**, visit the shops of **Hogsmeade**, and sample fare from some of the wizarding world's best-known establishments. Plus, experience pulse-pounding rides and attractions that transport you into a world of magical thrills and excitement.

From **Universal Studios** we head to **Los Angeles airport** to check in and board our **flight back to Australia**.

There will be time to purchase some dinner at the airport before departing.

Day 10: In transit

In transit, crossing the International Date Line.

Day 11: Australia

Arrive back in Australia with incredible memories and stories to share.

Tour Inclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GLE Tour Manager • GLE assisted check-in on departure • International return economy airfares (departing MEL or SYD only) • Travel Insurance. <i>Please note: Travellers are welcome to purchase an alternative insurance policy if they choose not to go with the groups policy, however the policy must include unlimited medical coverage. (Insurance may be arranged by the school).</i> • Hotel accommodation 3 Star – Twin/Triple share with ensuite for students*, Single rooms for teachers * <i>If there is an odd number of students, there may be some triple shares in quad rooms (2 double beds) or rollaway beds</i> • Private air-conditioned coach during sightseeing trips • Tipping for coaches and local guides • Sightseeing and entrance fees to all attractions as per the itinerary • Meals as listed in the itinerary (B – breakfast, L – lunch, D – dinner) • GLE Traveller pack including: 1 x t-shirt and 1 x backpack
Tour Non-Inclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government taxes (approx. \$440 AUD but subject to fluctuation) • Passport application fee • Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) Application (approx. USD \$40.00). Required by all travellers to the USA (GLE will provide information on how to apply). Travellers holding passports of non-US Visa Waiver program countries will need to apply for a separate Tourist Visa directly through the US Embassy in Sydney or Melbourne – GLE does not provide this service. • Meals not mentioned in the itinerary • Spending money and items of a personal nature
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Itinerary is subject to change due to airline schedule changes • The Kennedy Space Center requires a minimum of 24 students to participate in their program. • In the event that your school does not secure the full 24 students, we will endeavour to combine you with another school travelling at the same time, in order to make up the minimum numbers. Please be aware the quote is priced at 30 students minimum though (different to the minimum required by Kennedy Space Center). • GLE reserves the right to change your time of travel in order to meet the minimum numbers for Kennedy Space Center. • Booking Terms and Conditions are detailed on the GLE Space-X-plore Trip Hub page • GLE reserves the right to alter or amend the itinerary at any time • No accommodation or services are being held and therefore are subject to availability
Pricing	<p>\$9,995 AUD per person – based on 30 students and 4 teachers (30 is the <u>minimum</u> number of students required)+</p> <p>*Based on 2026 pricing as of 4 March 2026. Price is subject to adjustment based on USD exchange rate at time of final payment. This price is as per current 2026 rates for airfares, accommodation and suppliers. Airfare is not currently booked and is therefore subject to pricing at time of booking.</p> <p>+ A pro-rata payment is required by the travellers/teachers if the minimum group size of 30 is not reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All prices quoted are in Australian Dollars • Tour cost is based on rates for hotel accommodation; airfares, entry fees, etc., as at 4 March 2026 and the AUD \$1.00 exchange rate of USD \$0.70. Fluctuations in the exchange rate may vary the final cost marginally. • Trip valid for April school holidays, September, late November/early December. • If your school does not secure the full 24 students required by Kennedy Space Center, we will try to combine you with another school travelling at the same time, to make up the minimum numbers. That way, you don't miss out on this experience.
Deposit	<p>A deposit of AUD \$1,000.00 per person is required to confirm your place on the tour, of which \$500 is non-refundable.</p> <p>Cancellation Terms and Conditions can be found in the online Space-X-plore Trip Hub. Please note, if cancellation occurs after GLE has booked and paid for the Kennedy Space Center and other major tour components, further cancellation penalties will apply in addition to the \$500 non-refundable deposit.</p>