

A select international listing of museums featuring space exhibitions

The incorporation of space exhibitions in museums, and the establishment of facilities dedicated to the subject, is intimately linked to the development and geography of the history of space flight. The former Soviet Union and the United States, as leading centres of space flight, a circumstance initially spurred by Cold War rivalry, have created the vast majority of space artefacts. Europe, too, collectively and through individual national programmes, within and beyond the Cold War framework, has been a prominent creator of space hardware. A broad spectrum of nations – from China and Japan to Brazil and South Africa – also have, in varying ways, pursued space initiatives. These national efforts have overlapped with international organised efforts (such as Intelsat) and, in recent decades, private commercial undertakings. While Soviet and US human space exploration garners much of the public interest, space-based science and applications (such as communications and environmental monitoring) also are recognised for their prominent role in contemporary society (think of global warming debates and news reporting from Iraq). In contrast, the enormously well-financed domain of military and intelligence space activity (primarily a US phenomenon) largely exists below the ‘radar’.

This history and range of activity is imperfectly mirrored in exhibitions and museums. The majority of space-themed presentations and institutions are in the US and the former USSR, with fewer examples in other countries. This mapping also has been shaped by profound differences within the US and between the US and former USSR in policies for channelling space artefacts to museums. In the US, the civilian National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) pursued an active public programme of distributing its space artefacts, in concert with the Smithsonian Institution and its National Air and Space Museum. The result has been a wide availability of *civilian* space artefacts within the US and in other countries. US military and intelligence agencies concerned with space, though, have not adopted such a policy and their important and extensive history as represented by artefacts is largely inaccessible. The USSR, in comparison, regarded (as essays by Cathleen Lewis and Asif Siddiqi highlight) nearly all space artefacts as military and intelligence products requiring limited public exposure and created a museum system that embodied this position.

The goal of this listing is to provide a selection of international museums that feature space artefacts, with emphasis on those that regard space flight as a significant part of their mission and have a large regional or national profile. Left out here are the many smaller, but still important, museums (with many examples in the US and former USSR) whose focus may be on specific individuals or local contributions. Unfortunately, there is no handy world directory of space museums that can direct the reader to institutions not included here. For additional examples, readers are encouraged to consult the membership lists of national museum associations.

- Australia* Powerhouse Museum, 500 Harris Street Ultimo, PO Box K346, Haymarket, Sydney NSW 1238
- Belgium* Euro Space Center, Rue Devant les Hetres, 1 – B-6890 Transinne
- Canada* Ontario Science Centre, 770 Don Mills Road, Toronto, Ontario M3C 1T3
H R MacMillan Space Centre, 1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, British Columbia V6J 3J9
- China* Shanghai Science and Technology Museum, No. 2000 Century Avenue, Pudong, Shanghai 200127
- France* Musée de l’Air et de l’Espace, Aéroport du Bourget, BP 173, F-93352 Le Bourget Cedex
Cité de l’espace, Avenue Jean Gonord, BP 25855, F-31506 Toulouse Cedex 5
- Germany* Deutsches Museum, Museumsinsel 1, D-80306 München
Deutsches Museum, Flugwerft Schleißheim, Effnerstraße 18, D-85764 Oberschleißheim
Hermann-Oberth-Raumfahrt-Museum eV, Pfinzingstraße 12–14, D-90537 Feucht
- Hong Kong* Hong Kong Space Museum, 10 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon 852 2721 0226
- Japan* The Japan Science and Technology Corporation, National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation, 2-41, Aomi, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0064
Space World, Yahata Higashi, Kitakyusyu city, Fukuoka

- The Netherlands* Nationaal Luchtvaart-Themapark Aviodrome, Pelikaanweg 50,
8218 PG Lelystad Airport (EHLE)
Space Expo, Postbus 277, 2200 AG Noordwijk
- New Zealand* Museum of Transport and Technology, PO Box 44 114,
Point Chevalier, Auckland
- Norway* The Norwegian Museum of Science and Technology, Kjelsåsveien 143,
0491 Oslo
- Russia* The Konstantin E. Tsiolkovsky State Museum of the History of
Cosmonautics, #2 Korolev Street, 248650 Kaluga
Central Museum of Aviation and Cosmonautics, Krasnoarmeiskaya 4,
125167 Moskva
Memorial Museum of Cosmonautics, Pr. Mira, d. 111, 129164
Moskva
For additional guidance on museums in Russia and the former USSR
see: Association of Space Museums (AMKOS), Khilkov per., 3-13,
119034 Moskva
- Switzerland* Swiss Museum of Transport, Lidostrasse 5, CH-6006 Lucerne
- United Kingdom* Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2DD
Museum of Flight, East Fortune Airfield, East Lothian EH39 5LF
National Space Centre, Exploration Drive, Leicester LE4 5NS
The Museum of Science & Industry in Manchester, Liverpool Road,
Castlefield, Manchester M3 4FP
World Museum Liverpool, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN
- United States* National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution,
PO Box 37012, Washington, DC 20013-7012
National Museum of the US Air Force, 1100 Spaatz Street,
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433
National Museum of Naval Aviation, 1750 Radford Blvd, Suite C,
Pensacola, FL 32508-5402
Museum of Flight, 9404 E. Marginal Way South, Seattle, WA 98108
San Diego Aerospace Museum, 2001 Pan American Plaza, Balboa
Park, San Diego, CA 92101
California Science Center, 700 State Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90037
The Pima Air and Space Museum, 6000 East Valencia Road, Tucson,
AZ 85706
The Franklin Institute, 222 North 20th Street, Philadelphia,
PA 19103-1194
Fernbank Science Center, 156 Heaton Park Drive, N. E., Atlanta,
GA 30307

United States Cradle of Aviation Museum, One Davis Avenue, Mitchell Field,
Garden City, NY 11530
Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, 57th Street and Lake
Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60637
Space Center Houston, Nasa Road 1, PO Box 580653, Houston,
TX 77258-0653
US Space and Rocket Center, One Tranquility Base, Huntsville,
AL 35805
Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, Mail Code DNPS, Kennedy
Space Center, FL 32899
Virginia Air & Space Center, 600 Settlers Landing Road, Hampton,
VA 23669
Kansas Cosmosphere, 1100 N. Plum, Hutchinson, KS 67501
Armstrong Air & Space Museum, PO Box 1978, Wapokeneta,
OH 45895-0978
North Carolina Museum of Life and Science, PO Box 15190,
433 Murray Avenue, Durham, NC 27704
Roswell Museum and Art Center, 100 West 11th Street, Roswell,
NM 88201
New Mexico Museum of Space History, PO Box 5430, Alamogordo,
NM 88311-5430
Michigan Space and Science Center, Air Zoo, 6151 Portage Road,
Portage, MI 49002
Air Force Space and Missile Museum, 191 Museum Circle,
Patrick AFB, FL 32925-2535
US Naval Academy, Armel-Leftwich Visitor Center, 52 King George
Street, Annapolis, MD 21402-5034
NASA Ames Research Center, M/S 226/1, Moffett Field,
CA 94035-1000
NASA John H. Glenn Research Center, At Lewis Field – Visitor
Center, 21000 Brookpark Road, Cleveland, OH 44135
StenniSphere, NASA Stennis Space Center Visitor Center, Stennis
Space Center, MS 39529
NASA Goddard Visitor Center, 8800 Greenbelt Road – Code 130,
Greenbelt, MD 20771
NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Center, Bldg J-17, Wallops Island,
VA 23337

The following Internet sites may prove useful:

Encyclopedia Astronautica, <http://www.astronautix.com/>

Virtual Space Museum, <http://vsm.host.ru/>

My Little Space Museum, <http://www.myspacemuseum.com/>