

Journeying to outer space – an impossible dream? (A video transcript)

Hello! Today I will be talking about journeying to outer space. Now, some of you might be asking: what is outer space? Well, it is the physical universe outside of Earth's atmosphere. Its thickness is around 1 million times the height of the IFC in Hong Kong, 1 million! While humans have been into space before, we've never been to outer space.

When we talk about journeying there, we will have to first consider the means of transport, which means the spacecraft. We will have to build a spacecraft big enough and get enough energy and fuel to sustain for the entire flight. Luckily, some scientists are already working on using solar and nuclear energy on the spacecraft, and engineers are currently developing a line of space modules called the Orion, specially designed for outer space travel.

On another note, we will have to consider the problem of navigation and the well-being of the crew members. In space, it is very difficult to pinpoint an exact location and in long periods of space travel, astronauts will be exposed to radiation and isolation, which would take a heavy toll on their physical and mental health. In preparation for this, space agencies are launching satellites into outer space to facilitate future communication, and they are working with psychiatrists and medical health professionals to solve this problem.

Up to now, I've been talking about journeying to outer space on a technical level. However, some of you might be asking: well, would it be possible for people like us to go there too? Not just astronauts.

Currently, there are multiple space tourism programmes. When the technology for it becomes available, I think outer space travel will be quite popular. However, aligning with current space tourist standards, outer space tourists will have to be in good physical health, they will have to undergo some training, and not to mention, they will have to be filthy, stinking rich. Currently, a week in space will cost you about USD 25 million, 25 million! Well, normal people like us wouldn't be able to afford that price.

However, there is a silver lining. Very ambitious companies like Space X aims to colonise Mars and bring humans to outer space. Maybe in a couple of decades, they will be able to provide affordable space package deals for normal people like us.

Now, back to my question, is journeying to outer space an impossible dream? For me, the answer is definitely no, it's not impossible. Currently, the human record stands for outer space travel to be 400,000 kilometres above Earth, just 80,000 kilometres till outer space. Now that might seem like a daunting number, but it's not. We've already come so far now, we can definitely, definitely, go that 80,000 kilometres and way much more, even to other planets and maybe to other galaxies.

Well, I guess my point is: I'll be seeing you on Mars in a few decades. Thank you.