

# Cosmic Cruisin' Stars 'n Space

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## ***CENTI ASTRO-SPACE ACTIVITIES***

**Phone:** (716) 338 – 7596

**Emails:** [centiastropace@gmail.com](mailto:centiastropace@gmail.com)

[centiastropace@centiastropace.com](mailto:centiastropace@centiastropace.com)

**Website:** [www.centiastropace.com](http://www.centiastropace.com)

***Exploring the mysteries of the cosmos and the latest developments in Astronomy and Space Exploration, providing insights into the universe's wonders and the cutting-edge technology that helps us understand it better.***

Welcome to the January edition of *Cosmic Cruisin' Stars 'n Space* formerly *COSMIC DIMENSIONS*, the newsletter that explores the universe, Space Exploration and takes you on a journey of intrigue and fascination. So, begin to explore and enjoy the ride! Click on the titles to read the articles.

**In this issue, we will dive into the following topics:**

- What's Up in the Night Sky for JANUARY
- Want to Get Into Stargazing?
- 6 Biggest Space Missions in 2024
- How NASA Plans to Deorbit the International Space Station
- How Far Could a Pro Golfer Hit a Ball on the Moon?
- Curiosity Captures a Martian Day, From Dawn to Dusk
- A New Way to Characterize Habitable Planets
- A Carbon-Lite Atmosphere Could be a Sign of Water and Life on Other Terrestrial Planets
- Space Pic of the Month
- Fact Worth Sharing

# What's Up in the Night Sky for JANUARY

Presented by

Adventure Science Center Nightwatch - Bill McClain

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FaJYgyaezo0>

Tonight's Sky: January

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcVQNYkRSwl>

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## Want to Get Into Stargazing? A Professional Astronomer Explains Where to Start

Jonti Horner, The Conversation

December 30, 2023



Credit: Pixabay/CC0 Public Domain

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## A Planetary Scientist Reveals the 6 Biggest Space Missions in 2024

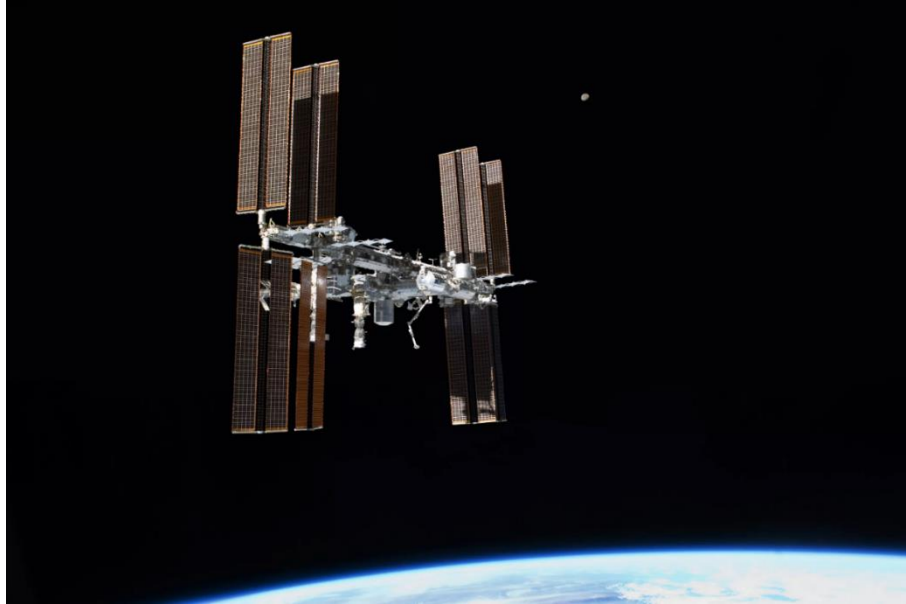
THE CONVERSATION and ALI M. BRAMSON

December 31, 2023



# How NASA Plans to Deorbit the International Space Station

Jason Davis    Nov 21, 2023



**THE FINAL FLYAROUND** The International Space Station (ISS) as seen from Space Shuttle Atlantis on 19 July 2011 during the shuttle program's final fly-around inspection. [NASA](#)

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# How Far Could a Pro Golfer Hit a ball on the Moon?

Mark Zastrow    December 21, 2023

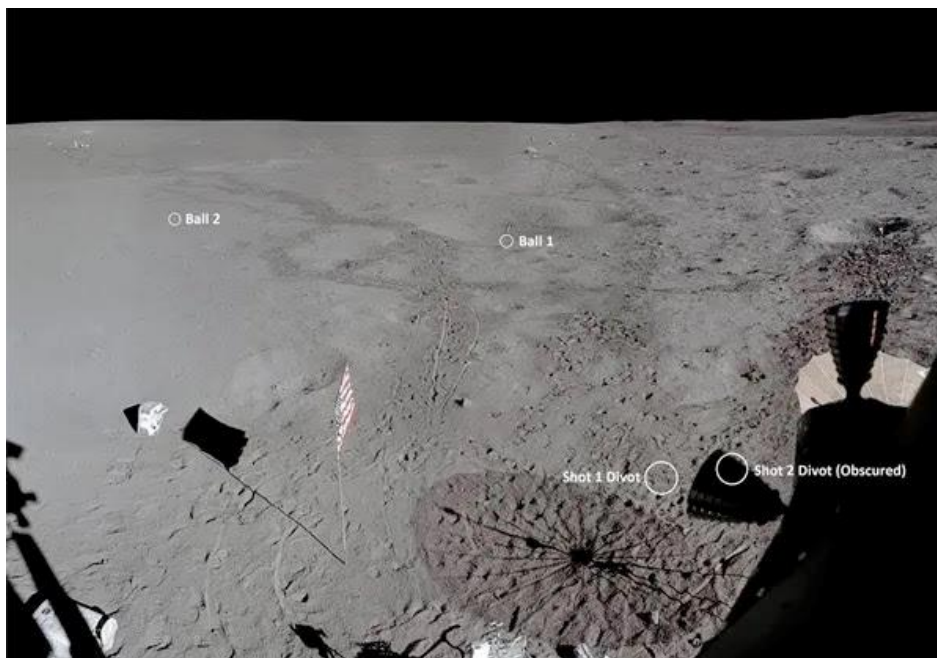
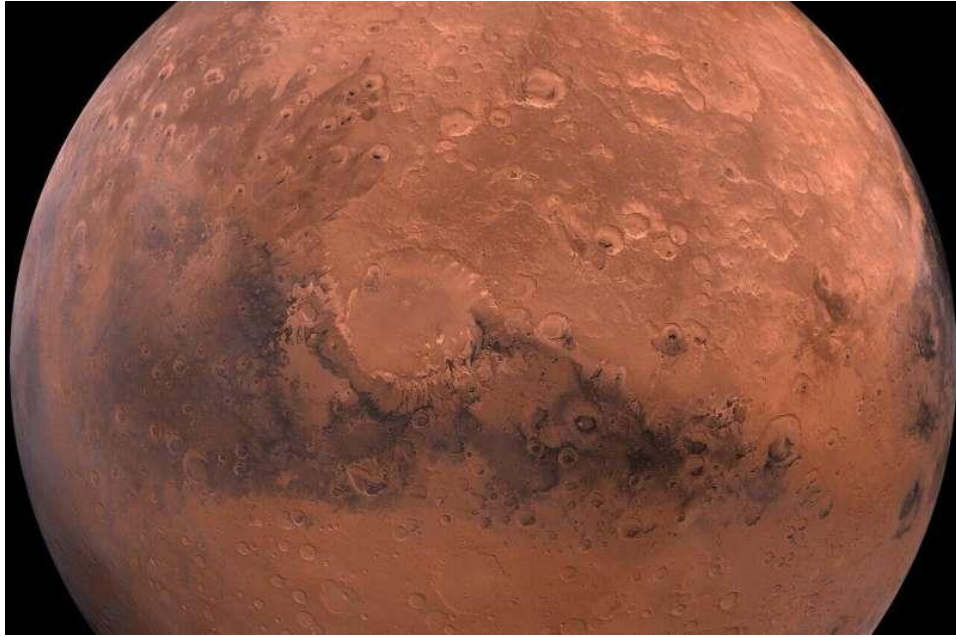


Image specialist Andy Saunders analyzed archival stills taken by the astronauts and was able to measure the distance of Shepard's second shot. Credit: NASA/JSC/ASU/Andy Saunders

## Curiosity Captures a Martian Day, From Dawn to Dusk

NASA December 29, 2023



Credit: Pixabay/CC0 Public Domain

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## A New Way to Characterize Habitable Planets

Lori Dajose, California Institute of Technology

December 29, 2023



Dramatic plumes spray water ice and vapor from many locations from Saturn's moon Enceladus



# A Carbon-Lite Atmosphere Could be a Sign of Water and Life on Other Terrestrial Planets

Jennifer Chu, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

December 29, 2023



Credit: Pixabay/CC0 Public Domain

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## SPACE PIC OF THE MONTH



Northern Lights, or aurora borealis, haunted skies over the island of Kvaløya, near Tromsø Norway on Dec. 13. This 30 second-long exposure records their shimmering glow gently lighting the wintry coastal scene. A study in contrasts, it also captures the sudden flash of a fireball meteor from December's excellent Geminid meteor shower. Streaking past familiar stars in the handle of the Big Dipper, the trail points back toward the constellation Gemini, off the top of the view. Bjørnar G. Hansen

# FACT WORTH SHARING

Earth's perihelion (closest approach to the Sun) happens close to the New Year every year. Earth's orbit around the Sun isn't perfectly circular, so we get closer to and farther from the Sun depending on where we are in that orbit. In 2024, perihelion will be on Jan. 2-3.

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## CONTACT



### *CENTI ASTRO-SPACE ACTIVITIES*

Christopher S. Centi, "C the Rocket Man"

91 East Main Street

Brocton, New York 14716

Business Mobile: (716) 338 - 7596

E-mails: [centiastrospace@gmail.com](mailto:centiastrospace@gmail.com)    [centiastrospace@centiastrospace.com](mailto:centiastrospace@centiastrospace.com)

Web Site: <https://www.centiastrospace.com>

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