



Astronauts recount 'otherworldly' experience behind the Moon

Description

The Artemis II astronauts, who recently returned from the far side of the Moon, have shared their remarkable experiences from the mission. This historic journey, which lasted nine days, took the crew further from Earth than any human has ever travelled.

During their first news conference since returning, the four crew members described feeling a range of strong emotions. Mission commander Reid Wiseman shared a standout moment during a solar eclipse visible only from their spacecraft as the Moon passed between them and the Sun. Wiseman remarked, "It's very hard to fully grasp what we just went through," highlighting the uniqueness of their experience.

The Artemis II mission marks the first crewed Moon mission in over 50 years. NASA has even bigger plans for the future. In 2028, the United States hopes to land astronauts on the Moon's surface as part of the Artemis IV mission, aiming to establish a permanently crewed lunar base.

Although there have been delays, with the surface mission initially planned for December 2025, the Artemis II crew expressed confidence in achieving their goals. Mission specialist Christina Koch noted that the challenges of the unknown were far bigger than expected but that every successful objective met during their mission offered reassurance.

Following the Artemis II mission, NASA plans to launch Artemis III to practice docking the Orion spacecraft with a lunar lander while in Earth's orbit. Preparations for this mission are already in progress, with the launch tower moved back to the Vehicle Assembly Building in Florida, getting ready for next year's launch.

Vocabulary List:

1. **astronauts** //ˈæs.trə.nɒts// (noun): people trained to travel in outer space
2. **commander** //kə'mændə// (noun): the leader in charge of a mission
3. **eclipse** //ɪ'klɪps// (noun): when one object blocks another's light
4. **docking** //ˈdɒkɪŋ// (noun): joining two spacecraft together in space
5. **reassurance** //,riə'ʃʊərəns// (noun): something that makes people feel less worried
6. **lunar** //ˈlu:nər// (adjective): relating to the Moon or its surface

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. How long did the Artemis II mission last?
 - Option: Five days
 - Option: Seven days
 - Option: Nine days
 - Option: Ten days

2. Who was the mission commander of Artemis II?
 - Option: Christina Koch
 - Option: Reid Wiseman
 - Option: Mark T. Vande Hei
 - Option: Victor Glover

3. What significant event did the crew witness during their mission?
 - Option: A supernova
 - Option: A solar eclipse
 - Option: A meteor shower
 - Option: An aurora

4. When is NASA planning to launch Artemis IV?
 - Option: 2025
 - Option: 2026
 - Option: 2027
 - Option: 2028

5. What will Artemis III focus on practicing?
 - Option: Landing on the Moon
 - Option: Docking the Orion spacecraft with a lunar lander
 - Option: Conducting experiments
 - Option: Launching into deep space

6. Where has the launch tower for Artemis III been moved?
 - Option: Cape Canaveral
 - Option: Johnson Space Center
 - Option: Vehicle Assembly Building in Florida
 - Option: Kennedy Space Center



True-False

7. The Artemis II mission was the first crewed Moon mission in over 30 years.
8. NASA's Artemis II mission lasted for ten days.
9. Reid Wiseman expressed strong emotions during the crew's news conference.
10. The Artemis II crew is confident in achieving future mission goals despite facing challenges.
11. Artemis III will focus on launching astronauts to Mars.
12. The mission included witnessing a solar eclipse visible from their spacecraft.

Gap-Fill

13. The Artemis II mission took the crew further from Earth than any human has ever travelled for a duration of _____ days.
14. The first crewed Moon mission in over 50 years is known as the _____ II mission.
15. NASA plans to land astronauts on the Moon's surface as part of the Artemis IV mission in _____ 2028.
16. Christina Koch noted that the challenges were far bigger than _____ expected.
17. Artemis III will practice docking the Orion spacecraft with a _____ lander.
18. Preparations for Artemis III are in progress, with the launch tower moved back to the Vehicle _____ Building.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Nine days 2. Reid Wiseman 3. A solar eclipse 4. 2028 5. Docking the Orion spacecraft with a lunar lander 6. Vehicle Assembly Building in Florida

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. True 11. False 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. nine



14. Artemis 15. year 16. initially 17. lunar 18. Assembly

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL4

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