

Book your space hotel in 2025



NEEL ROBERTS
Sky's the Limit

What was the most exotic vacation you went on?

Now you can see the whole planet and more from your hotel room in space.

According to CNN in a recent article, the Alta Loma, Calif. based Orbital Assembly Corporation is now aiming to launch two space stations with tourist accommodation. Voyager Station, the renamed original design, is now scheduled to accommodate 400 people and to open in 2027, while new concept Pioneer Station, housing 28 people, could be operational in just three years.

Orbital Assembly Corp (OAC) is creating the world's first hybrid space stations for both work and play.

"For the average person, being in space will be a sci-fi dream experience," says Tim Alatorre, chief operating officer for OAC in a press release.

"Our vision is to make space a destination people will yearn to visit, with familiar elements provided by the presence of gravity," he added.

According to People Magazine,

artificial gravity will allow guests to move around as they normally would, rather than in a weightless environment. The technology is not currently available on space stations, says OAC.

The customizable environments will feature five spacious modules built around OAC's rotating Gravity Ring architecture. There will still be what he calls the comforts of artificial gravity, like showers, and the ability to eat and drink sitting down, but the spaces with less gravity will allow for even more fun, space quirks.

Many who saw Stan Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey in 1968 were fascinated by the idea of space living as a routine life style. Back then, that generation could never imagine it happening in their lifetime. However, two generations later, it could finally come to pass.

SKY WATCH

On Friday, July 15 before midnight, look southeast-east as the moon rises with Saturn.

On Monday, July 18, look east after midnight at the moon and Jupiter.

On Tuesday, July 26 before dawn, look northeast-east as the near new moon rises into the morning with Venus nearby.

On Friday, July 29 until July 31, look in the constellation Aquarius one to two hours before dawn as it is expected that debris from comet 96P Machholz will fall at a rate of 15-20 meteors per hour. A moon-free night will make it great.

For this month's events, check the calendar at calgary.rasc.ca/calendar2022.htm#Jul.

Neel Roberts is a local astronomer and welcomes your comments at Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com and 403-560-6574. Check out his work at www.ptccanada.com.