

First human in space

On April 12, 1961, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin completed a single orbit of Earth aboard the Vostok 1 spacecraft, becoming the first human in space

Launch: 06:07GMT.
Tyuratam Missile Range
(Baikonur Cosmodrome),
Kazakhstan

2
Final stage shut down – Vostok reaches orbit

06:37GMT:
Enter eclipse

07:00GMT:
News of mission
broadcast on
Radio Moscow

07:10GMT:
Exit eclipse

Landing:
08:05GMT
near Engels,
Saratov
region

3
Re-entry:
Mission comes
close to disaster as
securing band fails to
detach – capsule
begins to
tumble

4
Gagarin
ejects at
7,000m
– first
parachute
deployed

5
Gagarin separates from
seat at 4,000m, landing
with own parachute.
Descent module
lands nearby

VOSTOK-1 DESCENT MODULE

Covered with
protective
heat shield

SERVICE MODULE:

Jettisoned
before
re-entry

FINAL STAGE OF LAUNCH VEHICLE

Vostok launches.
Gagarin
shouts
"Poyekhali!"
("Let's go!")

Vostok-K rocket

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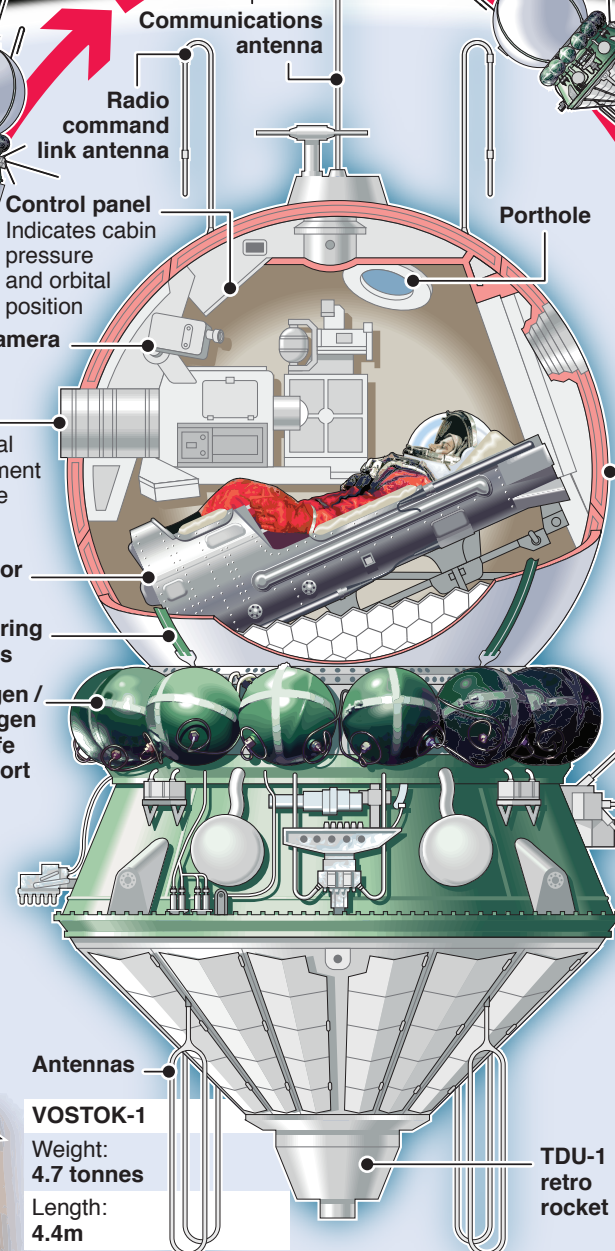
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Antennas

VOSTOK-1

Weight:
4.7 tonnes

Length:
4.4m

FLIGHT FACTS

Duration 108 minutes

Space time 89 minutes

Speed 27,400km/hour

Max. altitude 327km

TDU-1
retro
rocket

Gagarin is welcomed as
paragon of "New Soviet
Man". The eight-year
U.S./Soviet Space
Race to put a man
on the Moon begins

