

China launches space station module

China has launched *Tianhe* – a module containing what will be living quarters for three astronauts. *Tianhe* is the first part of its permanent *Tiangong Space Station* that it plans to complete in 2022.

Shenzhou (Divine Vessel)

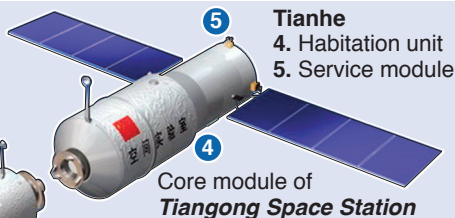
1. Service module (avionics, communications, fuel, air, water)
2. Descent module
3. Habitation module

Shenzhou spacecraft

Based on Russian *Soyuz-TM* design, carries up to three astronauts inside re-entry module

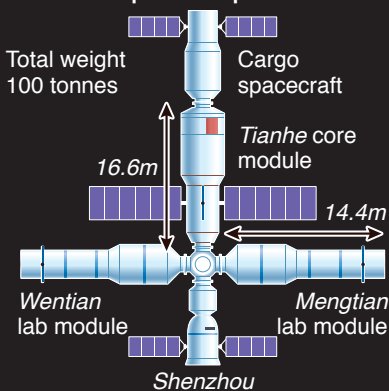
Milestones in China's space station project

China has conducted multiple tests via two space labs, *Tiangong-1* and *Tiangong-2*, in run-up to construction of *Tiangong space station*



Core module of *Tiangong Space Station*

China's planned space station



2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
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Sep 2011:

Tiangong-1 launched to carry out docking and orbit experiments

Nov: Unmanned Shenzhou-8

spacecraft launched, performs rendezvous with Tiangong-1

Jun 2012:

Shenzhou-9, carrying three astronauts, docks with Tiangong-1. Crew stays for 13 days

Jun 2013: Three astronauts on **Shenzhou-10** spend 15 days on Tiangong-1

Sep 2016:

Tiangong-2, space station testbed launched

Oct: Shenzhou-11 carrying two crew, docks with Tiangong-2. Astronauts spend 30 days in space conducting experiments

Apr 29, 2021:

China launches **Tianhe**

May: Uncrewed cargo spacecraft to deliver supplies and propellant

Jun: Shenzhou-12. Three astronauts to spend six months on Tianhe