

Space Travel by the Numbers



Photo courtesy of NASA

Members of the STS-126 Orbit 1 flight control team pose for a photo in the space shuttle flight control room in Mission Control Center at NASA's Johnson Space Center.

7, 24, 365: Days a week, hours a day and days a year that the Mission Control Center in Houston has someone on the job, assisting both shuttle missions and the International Space Station.

90: Minutes between sunrises aboard an orbiting space shuttle or the International Space Station.

More than 200: Miles, the height above the Earth astronauts are during spacewalks.

803, 9, 39: Days, hours and minutes spent in space by Sergei K. Krikalev, the human who has spent the longest cumulative time there.

More than 1,000: Number of approaches pilots fly in a modified Gulfstream aircraft before

being allowed to fly the shuttle.

More than 6,000: Temperature, at degrees Fahrenheit, reached inside the shuttle's main engines and solid rockets.

17,500: Speed, at mph, the shuttle attains 8½ minutes after launch.

6.2 million: Gallons of water held by the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory — the world's largest swimming pool — at Johnson Space Center in Houston. Here, astronauts train for the weightlessness of space.

6.6 million: Miles flown by Space Shuttle Endeavour during Mission STS-126 in November 2008. ▲