

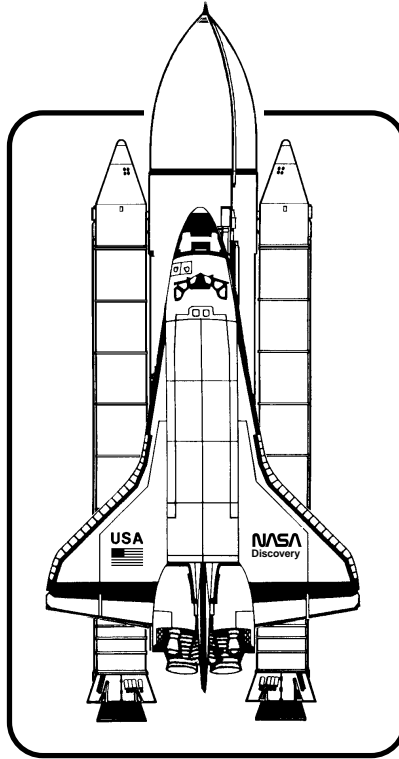
Discovery (OV-103)

America's fleet of Space Shuttle orbiters are named after pioneering sea vessels which established new frontiers in research and exploration.

NASA delved through the history books to find ships which achieved historical significance through discoveries about the world's oceans or the Earth itself. Another important criterion in the selection process was consideration for the international nature of the Space Shuttle program.

Discovery, the third orbiter to become operational at Kennedy Space Center, was named after one of two ships that were used by the British explorer James Cook in the 1770s during voyages in the South Pacific that led to the discovery of the Hawaiian Islands. Another of his ships was the Endeavour, the namesake of NASA's newest orbiter.

Cook also used Discovery to explore the coasts of southern Alaska and northwestern Canada. During the American Revolutionary War, Benjamin Franklin made a safe conduct



request for the British vessel because of the scientific importance of its research.

Other famous ships have carried the name Discovery, including one used to explore Hudson Bay in Canada as well as search for what was hoped to be the northwest passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific in 1610 and 1611. Another, based on whaling ship design, was

used by the British Royal Geographical Society for an expedition to the North Pole in 1875. This organization then built another Discovery in 1901 to conduct its Antarctic expedition that concluded in 1904. This ship still exists and is being preserved by the Society.

The first orbiter to fly in space was Columbia in 1981, followed by Challenger in 1983. Discovery arrived at KSC later that year, and was launched on its first mission in 1984. Atlantis followed Discovery, arriving at the Center in 1985, with Endeavour, the replacement for Challenger, being delivered at KSC atop the Shuttle Carrier Aircraft in 1991. A test vehicle, the Enterprise, was used for suborbital approach and landing tests, and did not fly in space.

In the day-to-day world of Shuttle operations and processing, the Space Shuttle orbiters go by a more prosaic designation. Discovery is commonly referred to as OV-103, for Orbital Vehicle-103. Columbia, Atlantis and Endeavour are, respectively, OV-102, OV-104, and OV-105.

Flights of Discovery (OV-103)

(1984 to date)

Times OV-103 Flown	Mission Name	Crew	Launch Pad	Launch Date	Landing Date & Site	Primary Payload
1	41-D	Hartsfield, Coats, Resnik, Mullane, Hawley, Walker	39A	8/30/84	9/5/84 At Edwards	SBS, SYNCOM IV-2
2	51-A	Hauck, Walker, Fisher, Gardner, Allen	39A	11/8/84	11/16/84 At KSC	TELESAT-H, SYNCOM IV-1
3	51-C	Mattingly, Shriver, Buchli, Onizuka, Payton	39A	1/24/85	1/27/85 At KSC	DOD
4	51-D	Bobko, Williams, Seddon, Griggs, Hoffman, Walker, Garn	39A	4/12/85	4/19/85 At KSC	TELESAT-1, SYNCOM IV-3
5	51-G	Brandenstein, Creighton, Lucid, Nagel, Fabian, Baudry, Salman-Al-Saud	39A	6/17/85	6/24/85 At Edwards	MORELOS-A, ARABSAT-A
6	51-I	Engle, Covey, Van Hoften, Lounge, Fisher	39A	8/27/85	9/3/85 At Edwards	AUSSAT-1, SYNCOM IV-4
7	STS-26	Hauck, Covey, Lounge, Hilmers, Nelson	39B	9/29/88	10/3/88 At Edwards	TDRS-3
8	STS-29	Coats, Blaha, Buchli, Springer, Bagian	39B	3/13/89	3/18/89 At Edwards	TDRS-4
9	STS-33	Gregory, Blaha, Musgrave, Thornton, Carter	39B	11/22/89	11/27/89 At Edwards	DOD
10	STS-31	Shriver, Bolden, Hawley, McCandless, Sullivan	39B	4/24/90	4/29/90 At Edwards	Hubble Space Telescope
11	STS-41	Richards, Cabana, Shepherd, Melnick, Akers	39B	10/6/90	10/10/90 At Edwards	Ulysses
12	STS-39	Coats, Hammond, Bluford, Hieb, Harbaugh, McMonagle, Veach	39A	4/28/91	5/6/92 At KSC	DOD
13	STS-48	Creighton, Reightler, Brown, Gemar, Buchli	39A	9/12/91	9/18/91 At Edwards	UARS
14	STS-42	Grabe, Oswald, Readdy, Merbold, Thagard, Hilmers, Bondar	39A	1/22/92	1/30/92 At Edwards	IML-1
15	STS-53	Walker, Cabana, Bluford, Voss, Clifford	39A	12/2/92	12/9/92 At Edwards	DOD
16	STS-56	Cameron, Oswald, Cockrell, Foale, Ochoa	39B	4/8/93	4/17/93 At KSC	ATLAS-2
17	STS-51	Culbertson, Readdy, Newman, Bursch, Walz	39B	9/12/93	9/22/93 At KSC	ACTS
18	STS-60	Bolden, Reightler, Chang-Diaz, Davis, Sega, Krikalev (Russian cosmonaut)	39A	2/3/94	2/11/94 At KSC	Wake Shield Facility-1, SPACEHAB-2
19	STS-64	Richards, Hammond, Helms, Meade, Lee, Linenger	39B	9/9/94	9/20/94 At Edwards	LITE, SPARTAN-201
20	STS-63	Wetherbee, Collins, Harris, Voss, Foale, Titov	39B	2/3/95	2/11/95 At KSC	Mir rendezvous, SPACEHAB-3, SPARTAN-204