



# Why Go to the Moon?

At the core of NASA's future in space exploration is a return to the moon, where we will build a sustainable long-term human presence with new spacecraft, robotics and life-sustaining technologies. Living and working on the moon will provide opportunities for research and technology development that will prepare humans for further human exploration to Mars and beyond.



## Human Civilization

Successful nations of yesterday dared to explore beyond their borders; successful nations of today will explore beyond our atmosphere. Successful nations of tomorrow will explore even further into our solar system.



## Global Partnerships

Exploration will be most successful when the shared aspirations of the international community are realized. A global exploration strategy maximizes resources and talent, benefitting all of us in space and on Earth.



## Economic Expansion

Space research results in applications that improve our daily lives. NASA has historically embraced close partnerships with commercial industry, and the future holds even more potential for commercial contributions to space exploration.



## Scientific Knowledge

We can learn about the history of Earth and the solar system from the moon by studying its craters and regolith. This will provide clues about the origin and structure of the moon and planets and answer life's most fundamental questions.



## Exploration Preparation

Lunar exploration provides opportunities to test new technologies, experience living on extraterrestrial surfaces and learn ways to use resources found in space – all with the goal of safely preparing crews for missions to Mars and beyond.



## Public Engagement

Lunar exploration will inspire the next generation of explorers to learn real-life applications of science, technology, engineering and math. Learning these disciplines will lead to discoveries and innovations in space and here on Earth.



To learn more about NASA's plans to return to the moon, visit [www.nasa.gov/exploration](http://www.nasa.gov/exploration).