

# Space Hotel Set to Open in 2012

How would you like to head off on a weekend getaway into space? One company is planning to launch a trip to the first “space hotel” in 2012. At that hotel -- the Galactic Suite Space Resort -- guests will live aboard a pod that connects to a central space station. Each pod will hold about four guests.



Galactic Suite plans to send its guests into space aboard a rocket that will take off from an island spaceport. Before the launch, passengers will take part in eight weeks of training. They will learn what it will be like to travel in space and be weightless. They will be taught important lessons about space safety too.

The trip from the spaceport to the space hotel will take about 1-1/2 days. On their flight, guests will orbit Earth once every 90 minutes. That means they will orbit Earth about 15 times a day. They will see the sun rise 15 times!

Once travelers arrive at their hotel destination, they will dress in Velcro suits. They will crawl around their pod rooms by sticking themselves to the walls like Spiderman does. There will be no tour guides aboard the space hotel. Travelers will just enjoy the views and the experience. This trip will be like spending a weekend at a quiet mountain cabin, resort owners say.

## NEWS WORD BOX

galactic    passenger  
reserved    schedule  
destination    experience

So how much will a trip to the space hotel cost? Travelers will pay \$4.4 million for their three-night stay at the Galactic Suite Space Resort. So far, 43 guests have reserved a spot. More than 150 others have said they are interested in traveling to the space hotel. The first test flight will carry just a few passengers who will stay in one hotel pod.

Some people say there is no way the space hotel can be built and open for business by 2012. That plan is “pie in the sky,” they say. But resort owners insist the hotel will open up on schedule.

## THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

Imagine you are one of the first guests in the space hotel.  
Write a journal entry that describes your trip and your hotel stay.