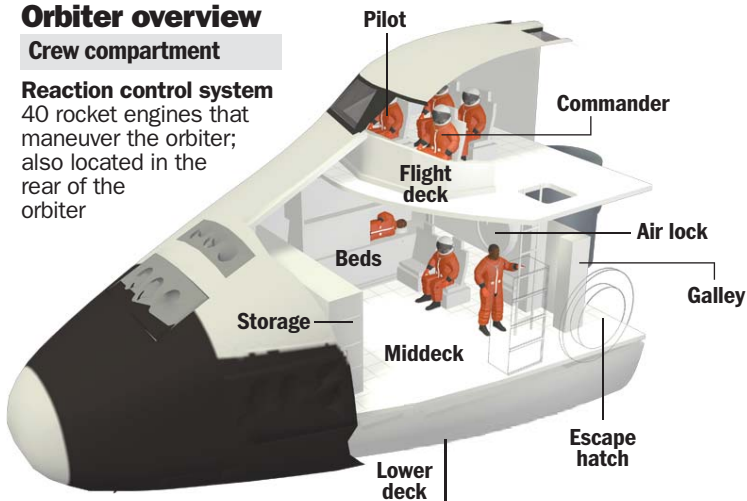


Orbiter overview

Crew compartment

Reaction control system

40 rocket engines that maneuver the orbiter; also located in the rear of the orbiter



External fuel tank

Boosters

The orbiter is launched by two solid rocket boosters

122 feet

57 feet

30 YEARS OF SHUTTLE EXPLORATION

After the moon landing, NASA was charged with developing a spacecraft that could fly to space and return to Earth. The shuttle program has realized this mission. July 8, 2011 will mark the last scheduled shuttle launch.

Payload bay

Used for storing and launching satellites with its 50-foot robot arm and conducting experiments

Fuel tank

Fuel tank

Engine

6,000 pounds of thrust

Reaction control system engines

Orbital maneuvering system engine

Powers the spacecraft while entering and leaving orbit

Engines are powered by a mix of monomethyl hydrazine and nitrogen tetroxide

Doors are opened to cool the shuttle in orbit

60 feet long

Air lock

Timeline of orbiters

Columbia*

Challenger*

Discovery

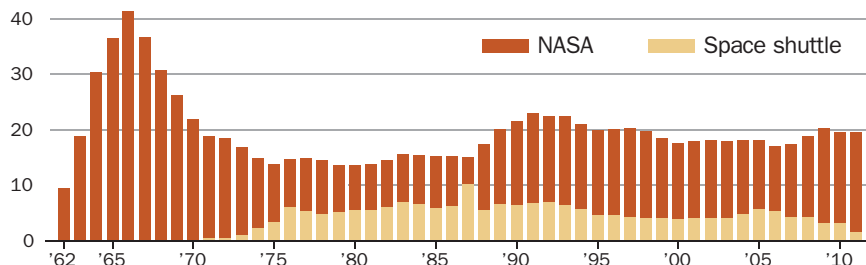
Atlantis

Endeavour

*Destroyed

NASA's yearly cost

\$50 billion



Missions by orbiter

- Columbia
- Challenger
- Discovery
- Atlantis
- Endeavour

