

# Astronauts inspect space shuttle ahead of landing

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In this July 25, 2009 photo provided by NASA, the limb of Earth intersects one of two Soyuz spacecraft that are docked with the International Space Station. (AP Photo/NASA)

(AP) -- Space shuttle Endeavour's astronauts are inspecting their ship to make sure it's safe for Friday's landing.

The survey of the wings and nose, being conducted Wednesday morning, is standard before a shuttle returns to Earth. NASA wants to make sure Endeavour's heat shield was not pierced by micrometeorites or space junk during its two weeks in [orbit](#). The astronauts used a laser-tipped boom to check for damage.

Endeavour and its crew of seven left the [international space station](#) Tuesday.

As the inspection was under way, an unmanned Russian vessel carrying several-thousand pounds of supplies docked at the station. Commander Gennady Padalka had to manually guide the craft in because of a problem with its automatic system.

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