

Shuttle Discovery heads toward its final landing

March 8 2011, By MARCIA DUNN , AP Aerospace Writer



In a frame grab made from NASA TV, space shuttle Discovery backs away from the the International Space Station after undocking for the last time Monday, March 7, 2011. Discovery is due back on Earth on Wednesday. It's being retired after touchdown and sent to the Smithsonian Institution for display. (AP Photo/NASA)

Space shuttle Discovery is on track for a Wednesday landing - its very last one.

Commander Steven Lindsey and his crew will test the shuttle's systems Tuesday morning. Then the six [astronauts](#) will hold a ceremony to mark Discovery's final flight.

Discovery, the world's most flown spaceship, departed from the

[International Space Station](#) on Monday. It will wrap up its 13-day mission with a Florida touchdown, weather permitting.

Discovery now faces life as a museum display. It's the first of NASA's three space shuttles to be retired. [NASA](#) managers contend the fleet still has lots of flying lifetime left. But the agency is under presidential direction to aim for true outer space, which means giving up the shuttles, which are confined to orbit.

©2010 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: Shuttle Discovery heads toward its final landing (2011, March 8) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-03-shuttle-discovery.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.