

What life is like aboard the SpaceX Dragon capsule

September 18 2021



The Inspiration4 crew (L-R): Jared Isaacman, Hayley Arceneaux, Chris Sembroski and Sian Proctor.

The first space tourism mission by Elon Musk's SpaceX blasted off from Florida on Wednesday and the four crew members—a billionaire and three other Americans—have already seen more than 25 sunsets and sunrises.

SpaceX has released few details about their adventure since they reached an orbit which is more distant than that of the International Space Station.

Here's what we know about their life on board:

Nine square meters

The four [space tourists](#) are aboard the SpaceX [crew](#) capsule called Dragon.

It is 8.1 meters (26.7 feet) tall and has a diameter of four meters (13 feet).

The capsule is composed of a trunk, which is inaccessible to the crew, upon which sits the living quarters.

The entire volume of the capsule is just 9.3 square meters (328 square feet).

Chris Sembroski, a 42-year-old Air Force veteran who is one of the [crew members](#), has compared it to travelling with friends in a van—one you can't step away from though if you want to take a break.

Toilets with a view

The exact technology behind the toilets aboard the capsule is a SpaceX secret.

But Hayley Arceneaux, one of the four crew members, said in a Netflix documentary that the "bathroom is on the ceiling."

"Really literally a panel that we take off and there's like a funnel," Arceneaux said. "There's no upside down in [space](#)."



Inspiration4 crew member Hayley Arceneaux looking out of the observation window on the SpaceX capsule.

The toilet is located near the clear glass observation dome, or cupola, installed on Dragon, which provides a spectacular 360-degree view of the cosmos.

"When people do inevitably have to use the bathroom, they're going to have one hell of a view," billionaire Jared Isaacman, the mission

commander, told Business Insider.

Privacy is ensured with a simple curtain.

'Eating, doing chores'

SpaceX released a video call Friday between the Inspiration4 crew and patients at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.

The 29-year-old Arceneaux, who was treated for bone cancer as a child at St. Jude and works there now as a physician assistant, was asked by a patient what the astronauts do for "fun" in space.

She said they have spent time "eating, doing chores and looking out the window at the world."

Sembroski said they've also been doing "a lot of blood tests and glucose monitoring."



Inspiration4 commander Jared Isaacman communicating while looking out the observation window on the SpaceX capsule.

The astronauts were also asked what is their favorite "space food."

"My favorite space food is pizza which I had yesterday and I'll probably have for dinner tonight also," said Sian Proctor, 51, who teaches geology at a small college in Arizona and was a finalist to become a NASA astronaut.

Musical interludes are also planned. Each passenger drew up a 10-song playlist and Sembroski planned to bring his ukelele.

The instrument and other objects are to be auctioned later with the proceeds going to St Jude.

The goal of the mission is to raise \$200 million for the hospital, with Isaacman personally donating \$100 million.

Scientific research

SpaceX tweeted on Thursday that the crew had carried out a "first round of scientific research."

One of the goals of the mission is to collect data on the effects of the environment of space on complete novices.



First all-civilian crew space mission
SpaceX's Crew Dragon capsule without professional astronauts on a three-day orbit around the Earth

Launched Sept 15 from Florida

HAYLEY ARCENEUX
Cancer survivor, physician assistant at St Jude's Hospital in Tennessee
Youngest American sent to orbit around Earth and 1st person with prosthesis to go into space
Mission role: medical manager
Seat: represents 'hope'
Age: 29

SIAN PROCTOR
Geology teacher in Arizona, former astronaut candidate
Won seat by creating an online sales site linked to space
Pilot
Seat: represents 'prosperity'
Age: 51

JARED ISAACMAN
Billionaire pilot who chartered the mission
Holds a record for flying around the world in a light jet
Mission commander
Seat: represents 'leadership'
Age: 38

CHRIS SEMBROSKI
Air Force veteran who served in Iraq
Selected after making a donation as part of a fundraiser for St. Jude's Hospital
Manage cargo on board, communications with Earth
Seat: represents 'generosity'
Age: 42

AFP  AFP Photo/John Kraus/Inspiration4 Source: SpaceX

Graphic on the four all-civilian passengers on SpaceX's mission to orbit around the Earth, launched September 15, 2021 from Florida.

Their cardiac rhythms, sleep and blood oxygen levels will be monitored along with radiation exposure.

Their cognitive functions were tested before the flight and will be examined again on their return.

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