

NASA's Artemis 2 mission around Moon set for November 2024

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NASA's Orion capsule after splasing down in the Pacific Ocean.

NASA is on track to launch a crewed mission around the Moon in November of next year after a successful unmanned test flight, the US

space agency said Tuesday.

NASA officials provided an update on the Artemis program, which aims to return humans to the Moon for the first time since the historic Apollo missions ended in 1972.

The first Artemis mission wrapped up in December with an uncrewed Orion capsule returning safely to Earth after a more than 25-day journey around the Moon.

Artemis 2, scheduled to take place in late November 2024, will take a four-person crew around the Moon but without landing on it.

"We're looking forward to that crew flying on Artemis 2," NASA associate administrator Jim Free told reporters. "Right now there's nothing holding us up based on what we learned on Artemis 1."

NASA is to reveal the members of the Artemis 2 crew later this year. All that is known so far is that one of them will be a Canadian.

Artemis 3, scheduled for about 12 months after Artemis 2, will see astronauts land for the first time on the south pole of the Moon.

"Our plan has always been 12 months, but there are significant developments that have to occur," Free cautioned.

"We're still sticking with that 12 months, but we're always looking at the development of all the hardware that has to come together for that."



Orion was recovered by the prepositioned Navy ship, the USS Portland, off the coast of Mexico's Baja California.

Among the items still in development are a [lunar lander](#) being built by SpaceX and spacesuits, Free said.

NASA hopes to establish a lasting human presence on the Moon and later launch a years-long trip to Mars.

As part of the Artemis missions, NASA is planning to send a woman and a person of color to the Moon for the first time.

Only 12 people—all of them white men—have set foot on the Moon.

During the trip around Earth's orbiting satellite and back, Orion logged well over a million miles and went farther from Earth than any previous habitable spacecraft.

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