

WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF SPACE TOURISM?

Today's rate of transport infrastructure allows people to be anywhere on the planet in less than 24 hours. With the development of globalization, people today are more connected, that is, more interconnected than ever, both physically and digitally. This allows them easy access to all parts of our planet and allows them to enjoy all the attractions, natural and man-made. More and more people travel every year because it is so accessible to them, and therefore more and more people will see world landmarks of which there are many but not infinite. There are people who have been on the road all their lives and have experienced and seen everything there is to be experienced. Furthermore, the vast majority of them share that experience with others via the internet, so we can conclude that a lot of people have actually seen, either in person or online, all world famous landmarks. By this I believe that there could be a saturation of travels around the world because everything will already be explored and visited so it will be considered normal that each person has been on some no longer so extravagant journey. An ideal example of this is Mount Everest. In the seventies in ten year period there were about 500 people who decided to climb the mountain, while today that number reaches 4000. In the beginning when someone reached the top he would be a national hero and today groups are organized to climb to the top which takes away that attraction to other tourists to try it themselves.

I believe that this will happen again in the future, but on a global scale and with all tourist destinations, so we need to design something that will meet the constant demand of tourists for something unique and better. If we have nothing else left on the planet then we have to turn to an infinite universe that can provide an infinite number of tourist attractions that people have not even heard of.

Currently, only trained people travel to space, i.e. astronauts, and travel expenses reach millions of dollars. The main plan is to manage to organize passenger flights into space without a lot of preparation and money in order to enable the larger population to experience that as well, and not just the extremely rich. So far there were 7 non-astronauts who travelled into space and some even spent up to 12 days in the ISS but they all had to pay large sums and go through long preparations to get ready for that trip. Although it is not available to everyone there exists something similar and it is a commercial flight that costs about \$ 5,400 and allows passengers to feel briefly what it is like to be weightless. So, the plane makes a turn at a certain altitude and for a moment the passengers feel like they are weightless. There are a couple of private companies that plan to engage in space travel in the future and they are still in the early stages of testing the safety and effectiveness of these ventures.

First, in order to start developing technology for space travel in general, the market must be examined to find out what factors will influence tourists' decisions to indulge in that experience. Let's say the cheapest space travel option is the most expensive option people use these days but on Earth. There are already very expensive trips that have their customers like expensive cruises so this gives us proof that there will always be demand, only the supply has to seem tempting to attract consumers. It has already been examined whether and how many people would be willing to give money for space travel. The survey says 4.3% of Germans would be willing to pay a couple of \$ 10,000 for space travel.

Going into space will not be an easy job either for travel organizers or for travellers. To begin with, it is necessary to determine strict laws that will have to be complied with if the company wants to have a business of transporting or accommodating tourists in space. As for space travel, the crew must be trained to perform all tasks in the air and on the ground so that the spacecraft cannot cause harm to anyone. They must also be trained on how to behave in the event of an emergency such as an unexpected breakdown or evacuation. The company should inform potential customers of the service about the risk of this type of travel and must do so clearly and understandably so that any traveller unfamiliar with this type of travel understands this without further education.

The first accommodations in space will not be complete hotels but only rooms that will be cylindrical in shape. The priority will be that these dwellings can be installed as easily as possible and are as cheap as possible. For starters, there will be only private bedrooms, common dining and social rooms, and rooms where guests will be able to look at the Earth or into space. Over time, more and more people will be interested and opt for such trips which will lead to better larger rooms that will grow into apartments and eventually into hotels. At the beginning it will be quite expensive but, the same as with accommodation, the more people decide to visit space, certain accommodations will become cheaper. It is important to emphasize that the construction of these accommodations will be cheaper than the ISS and other space stations because accommodations intended for tourists will not need all the necessary technology that astronauts need for research, only that kind equipment costs a lot of money. Tourist accommodations do not need much to be equipped and do not need any new and complicated technologies to build a space that will be used only for enjoyment. After a while, people will choose to stay longer in space because one of the reasons is the lack of gravity that helps to relax the muscles and can benefit the elderly population who have trouble moving. In the end, some will probably choose to stay in space but must keep in mind that muscles and bones weaken in such an environment because they are not used at all as they would be used if a person were on Earth.

The earth will be even more populated in a couple of decades and then we will have to look at going into space not as an obstacle but as an opportunity. There are a lot of projects in plan to go into space and to other planets but they all seem years away. Therefore, such projects and those responsible for potential reinvention of future lifestyles should be more encouraged in the future.