

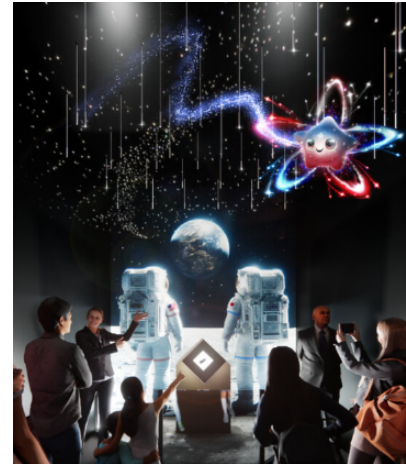
U.S. Embassy Tokyo

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U.S. Department of State Previews Immersive Space Exhibit at the Expo 2025 Osaka USA Pavilion

The U.S. Department of State is proud to announce a special, immersive exhibit within the USA Pavilion at Expo 2025 Osaka, which showcases American excellence and innovation in space. Stepping inside, visitors learn about one of humanity's greatest adventures—the exploration of space. From the earliest stargazers to the Apollo lunar landings and beyond, the exhibit highlights the remarkable milestones that define America's leadership in space through unique artifacts, prototypes, and a lunar sample (commonly known as a “moon rock”).



The United States is pleased to return to Expo Osaka with another lunar sample, having displayed one at the USA Pavilion in 1970 when Osaka last hosted an Expo. Its inclusion serves as a symbol of American gratitude to the people of Japan for the continued U.S.-Japan partnership in space exploration. Lunar sample 70035,41 is a 118-gram (roughly ¼ pound) fragment that was collected by NASA astronaut Harrison Schmitt during the Apollo 17 mission in December 1972—the last time astronauts walked on the Moon. This basalt sample, part of an original 5,765-gram rock, is estimated to be 3.7 billion years old, older than 99.99% of Earth's surface rocks.

As NASA's Artemis mission prepares to establish the first long-term presence on the Moon and lays the groundwork for human missions to Mars, the exhibit offers a glimpse of the future of space exploration. This experience embodies the USA Pavilion's exhibit theme, “Imagine What We Can Create Together,” and includes a 10-foot tall model SLS Rocket, a 1:20 scale model of the James Webb Space Telescope, and a 1:20 scale model of the Olympus 3D printer from ICON, a company developing capabilities that could be used to create lunar infrastructure for future missions.

Japan continues to be a key ally and partner of the United States in space exploration and plans to contribute a pressurized rover and components for the Gateway lunar station, with opportunities for participation by Japanese astronauts. Japan is also a signatory to the Artemis Accords, a common set of principles established to guide the civil exploration and use of outer space.

The United States is excited to participate in Expo 2025 Osaka as a part of an ongoing tradition of U.S. participation in World Expos, also known in the United States as World's Fairs. These mega events represent unique opportunities to showcase American excellence, innovation, business, and global leadership. Expo 2025 Osaka will open on April 13, 2025, and is expected to receive millions of visitors over the course of its six-month duration. The USA Pavilion will contain a series of immersive exhibits focused on exchanges, travel, innovation, and space exploration.

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