

KERBALEDU MISSION LOG

Gagarin's Flight	My Flight
<p>05:30 on the morning of April 12, 1961, both Gagarin wakes up, has breakfast and moves to launch pad.</p>	
<p>06:07 UT Launch. Sergey Korolev radioed, "Preliminary stage..... intermediate..... main..... lift off! We wish you a good flight. Everything is alright."</p>	
<p>06:09 UT (T+ 119 s) The four strap-on boosters of the R-7 carrier rocket empty and dropped away.</p>	
<p>06:12 UT (T+ 300 s) The core stage used up its propellant and fell away. The final rocket stage ignited.</p>	
<p>06:13 UT Gagarin reported, "...the flight is continuing well. I can see the Earth. The visibility is good.... I almost see everything."</p>	
<p>06:17 UT The rocket final stage shut down and Vostok 1 reached orbit. Ten seconds later the rocket separated from the capsule.</p>	
<p>06:37 UT Vostok 1 crossed into the night as the Sun set over the North Pacific. Out of VHF range with ground stations, communications continued via HF radio.</p>	
<p>07:25 UT Spacecraft oriented for the retrorocket firing. The liquid-fueled engine fired for about 42 seconds over the west coast of Africa.</p>	
<p>Problems After retrofire, attempts to separate Vostok service module from the reentry module failed, hanging by a bundle of wires. The two parts of the spacecraft began reentry and went through strong gyrations breaking the wires. The two modules separated, and the descent module settled into the proper reentry attitude. Gagarin remained conscious and experienced about 8 g during reentry. (Gagarin's own report states "over 10 g".)</p>	
<p>07:55 UT 7 km from the ground, the hatch of the spacecraft was released, and two seconds later Gagarin was ejected. At 2.5 km (8,200 ft) altitude, the main parachute was deployed from the Vostok spacecraft. Gagarin's parachute opened almost right away. Both he and the spacecraft landed 280 km to the west of the planned landing site.</p> <p>A farmer and her daughter observed the strange scene of a figure in a bright orange suit with a large white helmet landing near them by parachute. Gagarin later recalled, "When they saw me in my space suit and the parachute dragging alongside as I walked, they started to back away in fear. I told them, don't be afraid, I am a Soviet citizen like you, who has descended from space and I must find a telephone to call Moscow!"</p>	

