



United States Orion Space Capsule – July 10, 2017 – Galveston Bay, Galveston, Texas

We visit Galveston, Texas twice a year, spring and summer. On our July trip we decided to take the sunset cruise. What an adventure that was. The sunsets were awesome but what I spotted at the beginning of the trip was spectacular too. We were in Galveston Bay on the way toward the Bolivar Peninsula Lighthouse to take sunset pictures when I spotted it.

I yelled “Oh Wow!” and the captain of the tour boat said, “Oh My God! I have never seen that before, this is a first!” I said it’s a space capsule but my husband thought it was some kind of diving equipment. This trip I had my Nikon D3300 fast speed camera with me. I started taking pictures and didn’t stop until we were passed the US Coast Guard Cutter Harry Claiborne.

NASA was testing how quickly the astronauts can get out of the capsule. It was the first time astronauts have been inside a capsule in many years. This took place in the Gulf of Mexico in July 2017. How fortunate I was to take several pictures.

NASA’s Orion will serve as an exploration vehicle. It will be capable of manning five astronauts. Orion will carry the crew to space, provide emergency abort capability, sustain the crew during the space travel, and provide safe re-entry from deep space return velocities. The Orion will venture thousands of miles beyond the moon during its first mission scheduled for 2018. Orion will go through many test phases before being launched with humans aboard. Orion will, as said in Star Trek; “to go where no man has gone before.” In this case, NASA says farther than any man has gone before. The mission target is to go to Mars and eventually put man on Mars.

<https://www.nasa.gov/exploration/systems/orion/index.html>

<http://www.theorionproject.org/en/>

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=when+will+the+orion+launch+in+2018&&view=detail&mid=A8CD696DB32F7C4CD18AB8CD696DB32F7C4CD18&rvsmid=D0493E730B7E3423DBC7D0493E730B7E3423DBC7&FORM=VDMCNR> This link takes you to an hour long video that explains step by step what the plans are and what has been happening.

Carolyn B Hebert - Thursday, March 8, 2018