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Editorial
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Finally, an Exotic Vacation That's Truly Out of This World

“We're ten hours from the fun park and you want to bail out. Well I'll tell you something. This is no longer a vacation. It's a quest. It's a quest for fun. You're gonna have fun, and I'm gonna have fun...”

-Clark Griswold in *National Lampoon's Vacation*

That's right; we're on a quest. A quest for a vacation that is literally out of this world as it seems the human race has exhausted every means of travel entertainment, so we now turn to the final frontier. Could a trip to space find its place on the average Joe's July calendar? It truly seems more and more possible as the concept of space tourism advances quickly with time, especially in recent years.



“Sometimes George likes to pretend he's an astronaut.”

Leading the way in this new and exciting industry of space tourism is the world's first space airline [Virgin Galactic](#). This is no small feat as only 550 people, mostly middle-aged white men, have visited space to this day, yet Virgin Galactic is moving closer to its goal of bringing

greater accessibility, diversity, and rocket [reusability](#) to the space travel industry. These three points are extremely important in the realization of space tourism, but some doubt the need for investment in this industry when there seems to be so many other pressing issues in the world associated with poverty. In reality, the expansion of the space industry to tourism will only improve the world as we live in a time of [overuse](#) which is destroying an Earth that is running out of resources and space, producing much of the poverty in the world. Access to food and water is limited with a rapidly increasing population causing further poverty. In other words, the innovative technology associated with space tourism can eventually lead to [planetary inhabitation](#) to solve these issues.

Even so, many people think that the American government with its [NASA](#) program shouldn't budget money for such explorations when there is a national debt of almost 20 trillion dollars, but in actuality the space tourism industry is being pushed forward by private businesses that are able to raise supply their own funds without looking to the average American for money in the form of taxes. This allows extremely qualified leaders such as George Whitesides of Virgin Galactic and Elon Musk of [SpaceX](#) to create the perfect situation for the public as the industry is able to develop rapidly for us without causing any stress as we independently prepare for when the journey is ready to be undertaken. This means working to get the cost down with efficiency in terms of fuel, manufacturing, and travel time as the public physically and mentally prepares for experiencing the soon to come overview effect.

[The overview effect](#) is a term used to describe the emotions enacted when a person sees their home planet from the space perspective and how they are immediately humbled in the realization that there aren't any real divisions in a world that is so much bigger than themselves.

Supporters of space tourism want all people to have the chance to engage in this experience and therefore diversity is at the forefront of goals, alongside the technological advances. For example, people ranging from the ages of 10 all the way to 90, of 50 different nationalities, from all professions have signed up for the earliest of flights for the newest [SpaceShipTwo](#) of Virgin Galactic. Greater diversity is an idea we can all get behind, especially on the blank slate that is the final frontier.

In order to make the space tourism industry a great success, it must be comparable to the airline industry and this means reusability of aircrafts. The spaceships must be able to leave Earth, land at a space station or planet, and return to Earth in the same form to be used for later journeys. This is certainly within reach as SpaceX was able to demonstrate this [ability](#) over two years ago and it has only improved since then.

These improvements continue to trump the questions of safety that will inevitably arise when exploring new products and invoking change everyday, as it is an American tradition to make the best products for the consumer, especially with competition between businesses creating the right environment for innovation. Another aspect of the American tradition is to explore and expand our boundaries and knowledge by constantly pushing the frontier line. Just as we pushed it all the way across the country to the west coast we will push the frontier line upward where there are no limits to our imaginations. We will traverse space just as we dreamed we would when we were children.

Maybe one day you'll kick your legs up, throw your arms behind your head, and soak in the sweet sensation of the overview effect.

Editorial Analysis

Editor-in-Chief Mary Beth Aberlin of a magazine called *The Scientist* has written many editorials throughout her career, including [“Shooting for the Moon”](#) and [“Research at the Micro- and Nanoscales”](#), and she uses these credentials as a form of ethos throughout her articles by delicately weaving them into the editorials, which also displays a fairly strong voice. This keeps the focus on the issue at hand rather than who she is, which is important when attempting to convince an audience to believe your side of an argument. I used this technique when describing the research and people associated with Virgin Galactic and SpaceX. Another stylistic choice she makes in both of the above articles is using a quote as a hook, whether it be from a person of prominence or a common maxim, and this gets the reader’s attention by starting with something they are familiar with before diving into the dry science aspects of the argument. I apply this technique by using a quote from a well known movie character to make the reader comfortable. The use of a picture works in the same fashion as it is something anyone can interpret and catches the reader’s eye. Interestingly, Aberlin uses complicated scientific language for diction to explain many points of her arguments assuming the reader has a good degree of background information. I did not employ this technique as I believe it is easier to get a reader on your side if you do not frustrate them with language that requires outside knowledge of the subject. I liked how she used links to give information on small details of her argument that the reader may be interested in, even if it does not directly aid the argument at hand. I utilized this technique by providing a link to give depth on the subject of Earth’s overuse. I enjoyed the structure of her conclusions in that they are straight to the point being only one sentence, yet restate the thesis in a very creative way to keep the reader’s mind reflective, which I presented through imagery.

