



Smithsonian

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Moon for the Holidays: Bring the Crew to See the History Center's *Destination Moon* Exhibit

- The museum's holiday slate features very merry visits with Santa Claus, exclusive tours, a special talk with the National Air and Space Museum's lead curator, and an exploration of Pittsburgh's connections to the Apollo 11 mission with CEO Andy Masich -

PITTSBURGH, Nov. 15, 2018 – This holiday season, Pittsburghers can bring their families and out-of-town guests to the Moon! The Senator John Heinz History Center's epic Smithsonian exhibition ***Destination Moon: The Apollo 11 Mission*** is the region's premier attraction during the holidays, and the museum has planned several events and activities for visitors of all ages to enjoy.

Developed by the National Air and Space Museum and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), ***Destination Moon*** explores the Apollo 11 Moon landing mission through more than 100 one-of-a-kind artifacts, including mission-flown objects used by the Apollo 11 crew. Visitors won't want to miss a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see a national treasure in Pittsburgh – the Command Module *Columbia*.

The family-friendly exhibit also features interactive activities for astronauts of all ages, including an immersive "launchpad" entrance, a virtual 3-D tour of *Columbia's* interior, a lunar lander video game, a replica command module that visitors can climb inside, and more.

Holiday Highlights at the History Center

Guided Tours of *Destination Moon*

Saturday, Nov. 24

During Thanksgiving Weekend, enjoy guided tours of the blockbuster ***Destination Moon*** exhibit on Saturday, Nov. 24. Tours begin at 11 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., and 3 p.m., and are included with regular museum admission.

Visit Santa at the History Center

Dec. 8 through Dec. 16, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily

For one week in December, Santa Claus will be in the building! Each day from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., families can take holly, jolly photos for FREE with Santa Claus, who will be sitting in an exact replica of the chair from Santaland at Kaufmann's department store. Visiting with Santa is included with regular museum admission.

Behind the Scenes with the Smithsonian

Sunday, Dec. 9, 1 p.m.

The History Center will welcome Dr. Michael Neufeld, senior curator of space history at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, who will take visitors behind-the-scenes and examine his research in developing the ***Destination Moon*** exhibit. The discussion at 1 p.m. is included with regular museum admission. For an additional \$10 fee, visitors can enjoy an exclusive deep-dive tour of the exhibit with Dr. Neufeld and History Center curator Emily Ruby, beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Dec. 9.

How Pittsburgh Put a Man on the Moon

Thursday, Dec. 27, 3 p.m.

History Center President and CEO Andy Masich will host a special afternoon event exploring Pittsburgh's contributions to the Apollo 11 mission. Masich's lively presentation, History Center exhibitions (including ***Destination Moon***), and a hot cocoa bar are all included with regular museum admission!

For a detailed listing of History Center programs and to purchase tickets, visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events.

Space Shopping!

In addition, the History Center Museum Shop offers ***Destination Moon***-themed holiday gifts for space buffs everywhere, including official NASA swag, astronaut suits, command module coffee mugs, and more. Shop online at shop.heinzhistorycenter.org or visit the Museum Shop daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Museum Shop is open to the public with no admission fee.

For a limited time only, visitors can also receive 20% off the purchase of a gift membership, along with a limited-edition, Moon-inspired tote bag! This special holiday offer is valid through Dec. 31, 2018.

Destination Moon: The Apollo 11 Mission is organized by the National Air and Space Museum and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. The exhibition is made possible by the support of Jeff and MacKenzie Bezos, Joe Clark, Bruce R. McCaw Family Foundation, the Charles and Lisa Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences, John and Susann Norton, and Gregory D. and Jennifer Walston Johnson. Transportation services for ***Destination Moon*** are provided by FedEx.

Destination Moon in Pittsburgh is presented by **UPMC**.

The exhibit is also supported by the Eden Hall Foundation, The Quentin & Evelyn T. Cunningham Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation, Nimick Forbesway Foundation, Alcoa Corporation, Allegheny Regional Asset District, Audrey Hillman Fisher Foundation, Bozzone Family Foundation, Colcom Foundation, MSA__The Safety Company, The Grable Foundation, The Hansen Foundation, The Heinz Endowments, Jack Buncher Foundation, PNC, Richard King Mellon Foundation, S. Kent Rockwell Foundation, Wabtec Corporation, W.I. Patterson Charitable Fund.

The Senator John Heinz History Center, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and the largest history museum in Pennsylvania, presents American history with a Western Pennsylvania connection. The History Center and Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum are located at 1212 Smallman Street in the city's Strip District, and are open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The History Center's museum system includes the Sports Museum; the Fort Pitt Museum in historic Point State Park; and Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, a National Historic Landmark located in Avella, Pa. in Washington County. More information is available at www.heinzhistorycenter.org.



Developed by the National Air and Space Museum and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), ***Destination Moon*** explores the Apollo 11 mission through more than 100 one-of-a-kind artifacts, including mission-flown objects used by the Apollo 11 crew.



The ***Destination Moon*** exhibit at the Heinz History Center features interactive activities for astronauts of all ages, including a replica command module, a lunar lander video game, and a 3-D tour of the Command Module *Columbia*.



From Dec. 8-16, Santa Claus will be in the building! Each day from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., families can take a holly, jolly photo with Santa Claus in an exact replica of the chair from Santaland at Kaufmann's Department Store.

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