



# Contents

## 6 Introduction

The dream of space travel	9
World War Two rocket research	10
The Cold War	10
The space age begins	11
A space race	12
The dawn of Apollo	14
The first man in space and the new President	15
How would we fly to the Moon?	18
Apollo and the race to the line	24
The end of the decade	25
Apollo 11 prime crew	27
Apollo 11 backup crew	29
Apollo 11 Flight Directors	31

## 32 The Saturn rocket

The icon of Apollo	33
In the beginning	34
Saturn 1	39
Saturn 1B	40
Saturn V	43
Apollo 4	56

## 58 The Command and Service Modules

A new kind of spacecraft	60
Two spacecraft in one	61
Command Module	62
Service Module	77
Electrical Power	82
Life-support systems	83
Changes after the fire	84
Temperature regulation	85
Food	86
Toilet stops	87
Personal hygiene	90
To the Moon	91

## 94 The guidance, navigation and control system

The lynchpin of Apollo	93
A new integrated guidance system	97
Inertial Measurement Unit	98
The sextant	101
The computer	103
Apollo 11 – landings and alarms	110

## 112 The Lunar Module

In the beginning	114
Back to the drawing board	116
Weight watching	116
The descent stage	118
The ascent stage	121
The crew compartment	122
Overweight	126
Apollo 4	127
Apollo 5 – The LM's first flight	127
Flying the LM	127
Apollo 8	128
Apollo 9 – The LM's first manned flight	129
Apollo 10 – The LM's first flight to the Moon	130
How to land on the Moon	131
Apollo 11 – The LM's first landing	137
Preparing for lift-off	140

## 142 The space suits

A wearable spacecraft	144
Water-cooled garment	149
The pressurised inner suit	150
Outer protective suit (ITMG)	150
Helmet and visor assembly	151
Gloves and boots	151
Life-support backpacks	152
Waste management	155
Food and drink	155
First test flight for the Apollo suit	155
One small step	155
Where are they now?	157

## 158 Communicating from the Moon

For all Mankind	160
Talking across space	161
Conversations from the Moon	163
Mission Control	166
The Apollo beeps	168
TV from the Moon	168
Filming Apollo	169

## 172 Beyond Apollo 11 – the J-class missions

The Moon shot master plan	174
Apollo 12–14	176
Apollo 15–17	178
Apollo 18–20 (The cancelled missions)	180
The next Apollo	181
Misconceptions and conspiracy theories.	182
Why Did We Stop Going to the Moon?	183
Postscript	183
Epilogue	184

## 186 Appendices

Apollo acronyms and abbreviations	186
Table 1 – Missions	187
Field Guide to the Apollo hardware.	190
Table 2 – The fates of the Saturn V stages from the 15 planned Apollo flights.	190
The spacecraft	192
Race to the Moon - timeline	194
Acknowledgements	196

**LEFT** Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Buzz Aldrin peer from the hatch of the Apollo 11 Command Module in June 1969, while conducting checks prior to their historic lunar landing mission. (NASA)