

24 April



(Picture credits: NASA)

Hubble Space Telescope launch anniversary (1990)

Space agency/country: ESA, NASA

Mission: *Hubble Space Telescope*

The *Hubble Space Telescope* mission made history in space science, because it was the first optical astronomical observatory to be launched in space and orbit around the Earth. It was launched on 24 April 1990 and it has been operating ever since. The telescope's weight is around 800 kg and it is 2.5 meters long; its mirror diameter is about 2.4 meters. The *Hubble Space Telescope* is routinely touted as one of humanity's most productive scientific instruments.

For more information:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Hubble-Space-Telescope>

<https://hubblesite.org/mission-and-telescope/the-telescope>

24 April



(Picture credits: Xinhua)

National Day of Space Flight

Space agency/country: China
Mission: *Dongfanghong 1*

In China, 24 April is celebrated as *National Day of Space Flight*. It marks the anniversary of the launch of *Dongfanghong 1*, the country's first artificial satellite. This day of celebration was established in 2016 by the China's Central Committee and its State Council. *Dongfanghong 1* was not an easy mission; however, against all odds the satellite was launched successfully from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in 1970. It made China the fifth country to send a human-made satellite into low-Earth orbit and marked the beginning of the country's research and exploration in space science. This project started in the mid-1960s in response to a prompt from Mao Zedong. The satellite played the folk song *Dongfanghong*, 'The East is Red', to radio listeners across China.

For more information:

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202004/24/WS5ea28bf0a310a8b2411516e9.html>
<https://www.simpleplanes.com/a/qxW738/Dongfanghong-1-Chinas-First-Earth-Satellite>