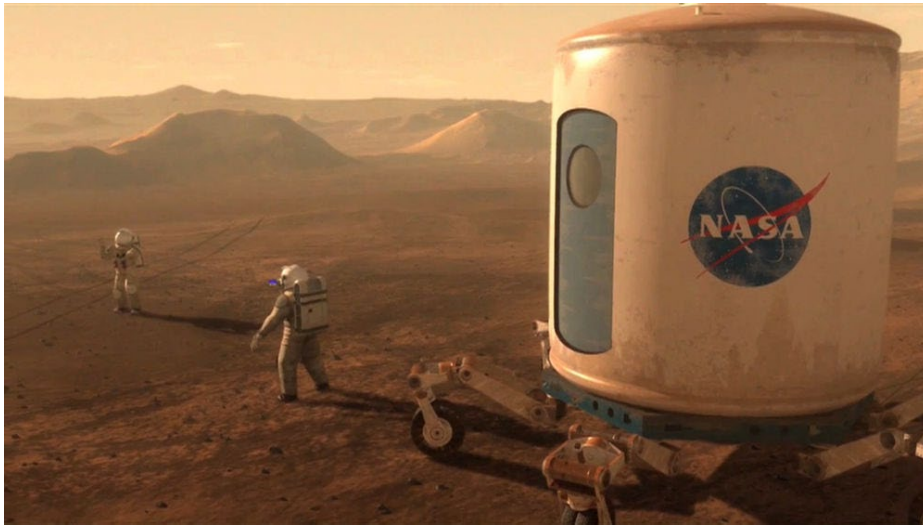


20 July



(Picture credits: *NASA*)

Celebration of the Viking 1 Mars landing (1976)

Space agency/country: NASA/USA

Mission: *Viking 1*

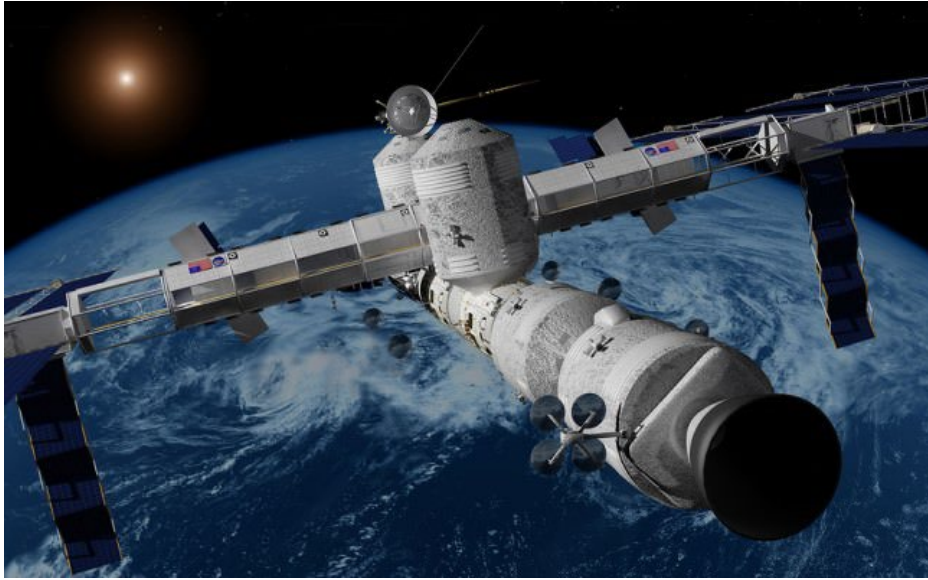
Viking 1 first entered into Mars orbit in July 1976 and landed a few days after. It was the first American spacecraft to touch ground on another planet. *Viking 1* was launched on 20 August 1975, in combination with *Viking 2*, which later landed in the *Utopia Planitia* region of Mars on 7 August 1976. Although there is still not enough evidence to support the possibility of life on Mars, the presence of ice and water suggests that it might be possible for life to develop. This is the reason why, over the course of the last century, many spacecraft from different nations and institutions have been sent to the Red Planet on exploratory missions.

For more information:

<https://www.nasa.gov/history/45-years-ago-viking-1-touches-down-on-mars/>

<https://www.ccssc.org/vikinglanders/>

20 July



(Picture credits: *bigstockphoto.com / 1971yes*)

International Moon Day/Space Exploration Day

Space agency/country: Worldwide

Since the beginning of time, humans have always asked themselves fundamental questions to which we still don't have answers. Space institutions were established around the world to find explanations. Over the course of many decades, we have made much progress. One major space-faring achievement was the *Apollo 11* mission. On 20 July 1969, US astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin were the first humans to land and walk on the Moon. Since this is one of the most inspiring achievements in the history of humankind, US President Ronald Reagan established this day as *International Moon Day*, or *Space Exploration Day*—not only to commemorate the first human Moon landing, but also to celebrate space science and trigger interest in and awareness of space research.

For more information:

<https://nationaltoday.com/space-exploration-day/>
<https://www.un.org/en/observances/moon-day>