



Global Friendship Through Space Education

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ASTRO

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NASA NEWS: STS*-125 Crew to be Welcomed Home

http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/shuttle/main/index.html

Space shuttle Atlantis and the seven astronauts touched down Sunday morning at Edwards Air Force Base in California, finishing up a 13-day mission to service NASA's Hubble Space Telescope*. Before leaving the runway, Commander Scott Altman spoke for his crew to thank everyone for getting them safely back home.



"At last! I didn't realize it was going to be so hard to get back to the Earth, landing here just felt great to everybody," said Altman.

"We're all thrilled to have the mission complete and it was a testament to the teamwork and cooperation of folks all across the country."

Image above: The crew of space shuttle mission STS-125 gathered on the runway after the shuttle Atlantis landed

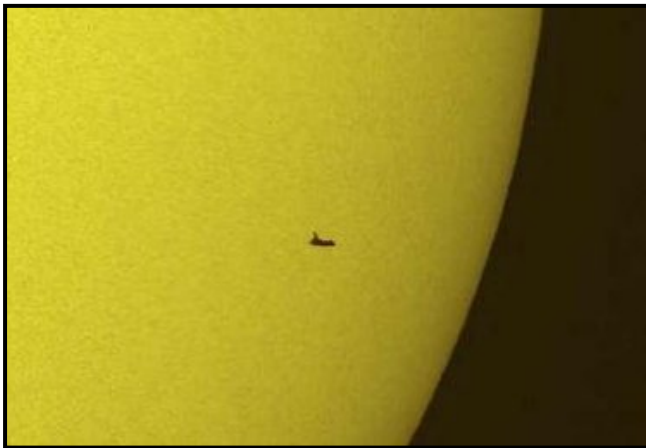
The shuttle's return to earth was delayed by several days because of bad weather conditions in Florida. Space shuttles land at Edward's Air Force Base in California when they are unable to land in Florida and then

are transported back to Kennedy Space Center in Florida- at great expense to NASA.

Atlantis Lands; Endeavour Up Next

During a press conference held at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, Associate Administrator for NASA's Science Mission Directorate Ed Weiler said, "Now, and only now can we declare this mission a total success -- the astronauts are safely on the ground."

With Atlantis safely on Earth and the astronauts back at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, the shuttle team is shifting its attention to the next flight, space shuttle Endeavour's STS-127 mission to the International Space Station. Liftoff is scheduled for June 13.



The photo you see on the left was taken by NASA. You see the space shuttle Atlantis as a tiny speck as it moves in space against the background of the sun.

SPACE WORDS

Space Transportation System (STS): [NASA's Space Shuttle](#), officially called the Space Transportation System (STS), is the [spacecraft](#) currently used by the [United States](#) government for its [human spaceflight](#) missions and is scheduled to be retired from service in 2010.

The Hubble Space Telescope (HST): It is a [space telescope](#) that was carried into [orbit](#) by the space shuttle in April 1990.

In two weeks you will receive your last Astro for the 2008-2009 school year. This will be your last chance to submit photos of your school and your projects. Send information to tyildirim@gftse.org.