

ESA astronaut Alexander Gerst: 362 days in space

The man nicknamed Astro-Alex will give a lecture at the Technik Museum on 4 November



Alexander Gerst gave the Blue Dot lecture at the Technik Museum Speyer in 2015. Source: TMSP



Alexander Gerst in the ISS Cupola on Expedition 40 (Mission Blue Dot) 2014. Source: Gerhard Daum

Speyer. For younger generations he is THE German astronaut. His work with the children's programme Die Sendung mit der Maus catapulted the smart astronaut straight into young fans' hearts. Teens and adults couldn't escape the hype around Alexander Gerst either, though. Never before had 'earthlings' enjoyed such up-to-the-minute insights into what it's like to live and work in space. His followers on Twitter and elsewhere were able to accompany Astro-Alex in his daily routine. It's no wonder, then, that Alexander Gerst's social media channels reached hundreds of thousands of subscribers in no time at all. To this day his highlights include his photos with views from the Cupola.

On Friday 4 November, Alexander Gerst will visit the Technik Museum Speyer and give a lecture from 15:45 to 16:45. The astronaut will discuss his International Space Station missions Blue Dot and Horizons, which he took part in in 2014 and 2018. The lecture will take place in the museum's FORUM cinema. Tickets for the lecture (including museum visit) are available for adults at €24 and for children at €19 at: www.technik-museum.de/gerst. Capacity is limited to 300 tickets. If available, remaining tickets will be available from the ticket office. Between the two missions, Alexander Gerst spent a total of 362 days, 1 hour and 51 minutes in space. He is the eleventh German to go into space and the third German astronaut on board the ISS. The Technik Museum Speyer has dedicated an exhibition to the Künzelsau-born astronaut, featuring 65 exhibits. Most of them were present on the ISS and are now part of the Apollo and Beyond exhibition in the museum's spaceflight section.

Mission Blue Dot: On 28 May 2014, Alexander Gerst blasted off on the spacecraft Soyuz TMA-13M from the cosmodrome in Baikonur for his long-term mission as a flight engineer on the ISS. After a solo flight lasting just six hours, the Soyuz TMA-13M docked with the ISS on 29 May 2014. Expeditions 40 and 41 were focused on over 100 scientific

research projects and experiments in the fields of astronomy, atmospheric research, biology, Earth exploration, medicine, physics and technology. Alexander Gerst carried out an outboard operation (or EVA, "extravehicular activity") on 7 October 2014 during Expedition 41, with a duration of 6 hours and 13 minutes. Alexander Gerst returned to Earth on 10 November 2014 along with Maxim Suraev and Reid Wiseman on board the Soyuz TMA-13M spacecraft, and landed 94 kilometres northeast of Arkalyk in Kazakhstan. On this mission, Gerst spent 165 days, 8 hours and 1 minute in space and made 2,566 orbits of Earth.

The Horizons Mission: On 6 June 2018, Alexander Gerst set off on Soyuz MS-09 from the cosmodrome in Baikonur for his second long-term mission to the ISS as a flight engineer. After a two-day solo flight, Soyuz MS-09 docked with the ISS on 8 June 2018. Expeditions 56 and 57 focused on some 300 experiments, including 65 European research projects in the fields of astronomy, atmospheric research, biology, Earth exploration, medicine, physics and technology. Expedition 56 crew's time came to an end on 4 October 2018, and Commander Andrew Feustel handed over command to Alexander Gerst. Expedition 57 ended on 19 December 2018, and Alexander Gerst handed over command to Oleg Kononenko. Alexander Gerst returned to Earth with Sergey Prokopyev and Serena Auñón-Chancellor on 20 December 2018 on board Soyuz MS-09 and landed 147 kilometres southeast of Jezkazgan in Kazakhstan. Gerst spent 196 days, 17 hours and 49 minutes in space and made 3,152 orbits of Earth on this mission.

About the Technik Museen Sinsheim Speyer – from Deep Sea into Space

Supported by the non-profit club Auto + Technik Museum e. V. and based on the motto "for fans from fans", the Technik Museen Sinsheim Speyer have about 3,500 members worldwide. The financing is exclusively based on admission fees, donations as well as membership fees of club members. All surpluses are used for the museum's maintenance and expansion.

On an area of more than 200,000 sqm, the Technik Museen Sinsheim Speyer present more than 6,000 exhibits from all fields of technological history in a worldwide unique variety. The exhibits range from submarines to vintage cars, from the Concorde to the Space Shuttle BURAN. Besides the permanent exhibition and the changing special exhibitions, there are numerous vehicle and club meetings as well as events. Open 365 days a year, the museums attract over one million visitors a year. Our two IMAX large-format cinemas are a true highlight. While the IMAX 3D cinema in Sinsheim – "the cinema with the highest resolution in the world" – shows exclusive documentations and the latest Hollywood blockbusters, films are projected onto a giant dome in the IMAX DOME cinema in Speyer.

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Mediabox: <http://media.technik-museum.de/>

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