

Self-Guided Tours for Marshall/Redstone Employees

If you have a badge and decal that provide access to Redstone Arsenal, you may take an individual or family-and-friends self-guided tour of the center. Some key facilities you might want to see:

Marshall's Von Braun Complex at the corner of Rideout Road and Marshall Road
These four buildings (4200, 4201, 4202 and 4203) represent the administrative and directorate headquarters for work now being done at Marshall. Building 4203 is home to the Marshall Exchange where NASA and space-related gifts are available.

Rocket Park at the corner of Rideout Road and Digney Road

Marshall's Rocket Park displays examples of early rockets, many developed here for use in the space program. Included are a Hermes, a V-2, a Jupiter-C, a Juno II, and a Saturn I.

Dynamic Test Stand in the East Test Area - can be seen from Dodd Road

Officially a Historic National Landmark, this test stand was built in 1964 for mechanical and vibration tests on fully assembled Saturn V rockets – the rockets that took us to the moon – and was modified in 1977 for vibration tests on the mated space shuttle and for evaluation of the craft's dynamic characteristics. It will play a major role in supporting design of the next generation of exploration launch vehicles.

Load Test Annex Facility in the East Test Area

This structural test stand features a multi-million pound, movable crosshead weight, mounted on four towers. The facility is capable of sustaining the tremendous force loads experienced by large launch vehicles, and can accommodate stages of up to 100 feet high and 54 feet in diameter. The facility was used to support design of the space shuttle and will play an important role in the design of future launch systems.

Historic Redstone Bunker & Test Stand on Dodd Road

There's a lot of history at this site, where engineers tested the engines of the Redstone rocket that launched Alan Shepard, the first American into space.

Advanced Engine Test Facility in the West Test Area

This large test stand was originally designed for testing the first stage of the Saturn V moon rocket, which boasted five F-1 engines producing an awe-inspiring combined thrust of 7.5 million pounds. In recent years, the site has been used for making improvements to the space shuttle main engine and for supporting the development of new launch vehicles.

X-ray Calibration Facility north of the Marshall picnic grounds

The primary purpose of the X-ray Calibration Facility (XRCF) – another NASA-designated "world-class facility" – is to simulate X-ray emissions from distant celestial objects. Its laser-straight, thermally controlled vacuum chamber – 75 feet long and 20 feet in diameter – enables Marshall technicians to test anything

that will fit into the space shuttle's cargo bay. Cryogenic test capability was added to the XRCF in 1999, giving the facility the unique ability to test large optics and structures at 20 degrees Kelvin.

Payload Operations Integration Center on the corner of Martin Road and Dodd Road

The Payload Operations Center at Marshall is NASA's primary International Space Station science command post, coordinating all on-board science experiments and communications between researchers on the ground and their experiments.