

Celebrate Apollo: Exploring the Moon, Discovering Earth

We came all this way to explore the moon, and the most important thing is that we discovered the Earth.

— William Anders, Apollo 8 Astronaut

The Apollo Program afforded the world the first views of our fragile planet. It was during the Apollo Program that humans witnessed the Earth rise from the blackness of space and got the first 'full' view of the Earth. Those images have had a profound impact on humanity, and on ourselves, and prompted the environmental movement in the 1970s.



Earthrise - In December 1968, a turbulent world looked to the heavens for a unique view of our home planet. This photo of "Earthrise" over the lunar horizon was taken by the Apollo 8 crew in December 1968, showing Earth for the first time as it appears from deep space. Taken by astronaut William Anders, his view of the rising Earth greeted the Apollo 8 astronauts as they came from behind the Moon after the lunar orbit insertion burn.



The Blue Marble was the first clear image of Earth. It was originally taken “upside down” on December 7, 1972, by the crew of *Apollo 17*.

Apollo 17 was the last human lunar mission. No humans since have been at a range where taking a whole-Earth photograph such as *The Blue Marble* would be possible.