

## China's Human Spaceflight Plans 2026

The China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) recently announced plans to conduct two manned spaceflights and one cargo resupply mission in 2026. Astronauts from the special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau are also slated to undertake missions to the China Space Station (CSS).

Furthermore, the manned lunar landing program is progressing as planned, with the goal of landing Chinese astronauts on the moon for the first time before 2030. A Pakistani astronaut will also complete a short-duration mission as a payload specialist. Two manned spaceflights and one cargo mission are planned for 2026. A member of the Shenzhou-23 crew will undertake a one-year long-duration stay in space. Research, development, and construction work are taking place within the framework of the lunar program as planned.

The development of key spacecraft elements is progressing steadily, including the *Long March-10* launch vehicle, the *Mengzhou* crewed spacecraft, and the *Lanyue* lunar lander.



*The Mengzhou spacecraft lifts off with the Long March-10 rocket at Wenchang Space Launch Site in the southern island province of Hainan on February 11, 2026.  
Photo: Fan Wei/GT*

In 2026, support facilities at the Wenchang Space Center and ground infrastructure for telemetry, communication, and landing are also to be further expanded.

China is also promoting international cooperation in human spaceflight. Following a cooperation agreement between China and Pakistan on astronaut selection and training, a Pakistani astronaut will conduct a short-term mission on the Chinese space station as mentioned above, and will carry out scientific experiments for Pakistan.

The Chinese space station is currently in stable orbit. Since the beginning of the application- and development phase, six crewed missions and four cargo missions and seven return missions were successfully completed.

A total of 18 astronauts completed long-duration stays in space. Thirteen spacewalks and several maintenance missions were conducted, setting a new world record for the duration of a single spacewalk.

To date, 267 scientific research and application projects have been implemented on board the Chinese space station, including in the fields of space life sciences, microgravity physics, and new space technologies. Several internationally leading scientific results have been achieved and some have already been put into practical use.

China emphasizes its continued commitment to inviting international partners to participate in human spaceflight to jointly advance the peaceful use of space for the benefit of humanity.

## Reference

China Rundschau, KW 10 2026, Editor Wen Geng