

HOPE LIFTS OFF

► Probe began its epic 200-day journey to the Red Planet early today, with the eyes of the world on the UAE's gift to the quest for discovery

SARWAT NASIR

The UAE joined an elite club of space nations this morning when it sent a home-grown probe into outer orbit on a headingle to Mars.

Hope was blasted out of Earth's atmosphere on a Japanese H-IIA rocket, which was struck mid and the probe began its 225-day journey. The names of hundreds of officials and engineers, and millions of watchful gazes on the launch, were called out when the probe took off high into the air and headed towards outer orbit. In the next seven months, Hope will travel at speeds of up to 110,000kph on its 600-million-kilometre journey to Mars.

Once there, it will use instruments to study the Red Planet's unique weather system, which remains one of its major mysteries.

To get to this point, the mission cost 1.5 billion dollars - a staggering budget in space terms - and took a mere six years between conception and blast-off.

UAE leaders said it would show young people throughout the Arab world what is possible with education, vision and determination.

"It is the UAE's gift to the world and proves the capabilities of the Emirati and the Arab world to fulfil great achievements," said His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Minister of Education, shortly before the launch.

"Mars is a nation and, God willing, then we will be the first nation to reach it."

Omar Al Olama, Minister of State for Digital Economy, AI and Remote Working Systems, told the Emiratis that the Mars mission was just the start of the country's space ambitions.

"This is a huge undertaking. As you know there are three countries that are aiming for Mars this year - the US, China and the UAE," Mr Al Olama said.

"Being among these great pioneers in the space industry, being a success and an undertaking, only shows a lot."

"It also shows the ambition of the UAE to become part of the elite group of nations that are exploring the space sector. It will be a legacy in the space sector that will be able to add the Emirati engineers and technicians who worked to deliver the project and a big infrastructure head.

"Every single man and woman that was part of this programme, we are sure, is going to have great contributions to science, engineering and technology in the future," Mr Al Olama said.

The Mars mission, which followed last year's eight-day journey by Emirati astronaut Majed Al Mansoori to the International Space Station, will also fulfil an early ambition of Sheikh Zayed, the UAE's Founding Father.

In 1978, Sheikh Zayed welcomed Apollo 17 astronaut Gene Cernan, it could be said, and asked him to take a message to Abu Dhabi and expressed a desire that the Emirates could one day find its place in space.

"On this day, we are living through a historic moment in the Arab world and a dream that belonged to the Founding Father, Sheikh Zayed," said Abdullah bin Yousef, Minister of Economy.

"Today we witness the capabilities of our young people to realise their ambitions and we congratulate everyone on this noble achievement, which will open new horizons in a space economy, develop our capabilities and elevate our people and the people of the region."

To reach this point was a huge achievement.

More than half of all Mars missions have failed and Hope faces a challenging journey, with many hazards along the way, including high levels of radiation.

About two hours after blast-off, it opened its solar panels to turn on its batteries to ensure its fuel does not freeze.

Temperatures can reach as low as minus 210°C.

Two solar panels that generate enough power to run all systems on the probe's on-board electricity during the day, it also has a separate fuel tank.

Half of the fuel is used for power the systems that will slow it from 110,000kph to 18,000kph, enabling it to enter Martian orbit in two weeks.

The other half will keep it in orbit for a full Martian year - 687 days. Hope aims to send the climate of Mars and will send back one terabyte of data over two years, which will be shared, free of charge, with more than 200 research centres around the world.



The H-IIA rocket carrying Hope to Mars. Tareq Rashid/ANP/ANP





BREATHER SPACE: TOP SPOTS FOR SOCIALLY DISTANCED HOLIDAYS

Belina Denman rounds up some remote destinations to consider once travel resumes

Belina Denman rounds up some remote destinations to consider once travel resumes

Leppoo Lodges is the first luxury camp in Africa to offer the carbon footprint of every visiting guest, from the time they leave their home to the moment they return

Leppoo Lodges is the first luxury camp in Africa to offer the carbon footprint of every visiting guest, from the time they leave their home to the moment they return

Leppoo Lodges is the first luxury camp in Africa to offer the carbon footprint of every visiting guest, from the time they leave their home to the moment they return

Leppoo Lodges is the first luxury camp in Africa to offer the carbon footprint of every visiting guest, from the time they leave their home to the moment they return

Leppoo Lodges is the first luxury camp in Africa to offer the carbon footprint of every visiting guest, from the time they leave their home to the moment they return

Leppoo Lodges is the first luxury camp in Africa to offer the carbon footprint of every visiting guest, from the time they leave their home to the moment they return

Leppoo Lodges is the first luxury camp in Africa to offer the carbon footprint of every visiting guest, from the time they leave their home to the moment they return



The Greek Isles offers 17 remote residences across the islands.



The Village at George's Bay, St. John's, can be booked in its entirety.



A large view of Africa's low-rise, green lodges.

Online summer sales worth checking out



Online summer sales are offering online and in-store discounts.

Online summer sales are offering online and in-store discounts. Retailers are offering online and in-store discounts.

Online summer sales are offering online and in-store discounts. Retailers are offering online and in-store discounts.

Online summer sales are offering online and in-store discounts. Retailers are offering online and in-store discounts.

Online summer sales are offering online and in-store discounts. Retailers are offering online and in-store discounts.

Online summer sales are offering online and in-store discounts. Retailers are offering online and in-store discounts.

Online summer sales are offering online and in-store discounts. Retailers are offering online and in-store discounts.

The National (Circulation 27,000; Points 8) 20th July 2020

(IMAGE 2 OF 3)

Leppoo Lodges is the first luxury camp in Africa to offer the carbon footprint of every visiting guest, from the time they leave their home to the moment they return

Leppoo Lodges is the first luxury camp in Africa to offer the carbon footprint of every visiting guest, from the time they leave their home to the moment they return

Leppoo Lodges is the first luxury camp in Africa to offer the carbon footprint of every visiting guest, from the time they leave their home to the moment they return

Leppoo Lodges is the first luxury camp in Africa to offer the carbon footprint of every visiting guest, from the time they leave their home to the moment they return

Leppoo Lodges is the first luxury camp in Africa to offer the carbon footprint of every visiting guest, from the time they leave their home to the moment they return

Leppoo Lodges is the first luxury camp in Africa to offer the carbon footprint of every visiting guest, from the time they leave their home to the moment they return

Leppoo Lodges is the first luxury camp in Africa to offer the carbon footprint of every visiting guest, from the time they leave their home to the moment they return

Leppoo Lodges is the first luxury camp in Africa to offer the carbon footprint of every visiting guest, from the time they leave their home to the moment they return

fashion sandals that rate Lebanese craftsmanship



Collective Two was inspired by the colors of the sea.

Lebanese craftsmanship is showcased in these fashion sandals.

Lebanese craftsmanship is showcased in these fashion sandals.

Lebanese craftsmanship is showcased in these fashion sandals.

Lebanese craftsmanship is showcased in these fashion sandals.

Lebanese craftsmanship is showcased in these fashion sandals.

Lebanese craftsmanship is showcased in these fashion sandals.

Lebanese craftsmanship is showcased in these fashion sandals.

Lebanese craftsmanship is showcased in these fashion sandals.

Lebanese craftsmanship is showcased in these fashion sandals.

Lebanese craftsmanship is showcased in these fashion sandals.

like you've stepped back in time (bar the wi-fi, of course). It costs about Dh285,000 per week.

www.oliverstravels.com

A treehouse in Brazil

A jungle villa in the heart of the Brazilian rainforest is about as remote as it gets. Available through Stay One Degree and located in the Atlantic Rainforest in Brazil's Bahia state, the environmentally friendly accommodation is built from 60-year-old naturally felled timber and features an elevated terrace for premium jungle watching, a secluded garden, private pool and yoga deck. There's also a fully equipped kitchen and a charming dining area engulfed in the forest canopy.

www.stayonedegree.com

Hotel buyout in Puglia

Paragon 700 Boutique Hotel & Spa in Ostuni, Puglia, Italy,

You can have an entire Maldivian island to yourself with Velaa's island buyout Velaa Private Island

opened its doors for the first time on June 18, and if you want to be among the first to stay in this boutique property, you can now invest in an exclusive takeover of all 11 of its rooms. A red brick facade hides lush gardens and a private swimming pool – a rare bit of green space in the midst of the city of Ostuni. The hotel is a five-minute walk from the city's main square, if you do want to go out and see some sites, otherwise you can make use of the property's private spa or eclectic bar. Private boat trips, motorbike tours, art and cooking classes, and open-air cinema nights can also be organised. An exclusive buyout will cost from from Dh41,000 for two nights.

www.paragon700.com

A solitary safari

Located more than 300km from Johannesburg, and consisting of just five private villas, is Noka Camp by Lepogo

The National (Circulation 27,000; Points 8) 20th July 2020

(IMAGE 3 OF 3)