

Topic Page: [Gagarin, Yuri \(1934 - 1968\)](#)

Definition: **Gagarin, Yuri Alekseyevich** from *Chambers Biographical Dictionary*

1934-68

Soviet cosmonaut

Born near Gzhatsk, he joined the Soviet air force in 1957, and in 1961 became the first man to travel in space, completing a circuit of the Earth in the *Vostok* spaceship satellite. Nominated a Hero of the Soviet Union, he shared the Galabert Astronautical prize with John Glenn in 1963. He was killed in a plane accident while training.

Bizony, Piers and Doran, Jamie, *Starman: The Truth behind the Legend of Yuri Gagarin* (1998).



Image from: [The age of manned space exploration began on... in Scientific Exploration and Expeditions: From the Age of Discovery to the Twenty-First Century](#)

Summary Article: **Gagarin, Yuri Alexeyevich**

From *The Hutchinson Unabridged Encyclopedia with Atlas and Weather Guide*

Soviet cosmonaut who on 12 April 1961 became the first human in space, aboard the spacecraft *Vostok 1* (see *Vostok*). He completed one orbit of the Earth, taking 108 minutes from launch to landing. He died in a plane crash while training for the *Soyuz 3* mission.

Born near Gzhatsk in the Smolensk region in the former USSR, Gagarin became a Soviet Air Force pilot and parachutist in 1957. He was named a 'Hero of the Soviet Union' and became an international spokesperson for his nation's space programme. The Russian space station *Salyut* (Russian 'Salute') was named to honour his memory.

weblinks

Gagarin, Yuri

images

Gagarin, Yuri, in crowd

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MLA

Gagarin, Yuri Alexeyevich. (2018). In Helicon (Ed.), *The Hutchinson unabridged encyclopedia with atlas and weather guide*. Abington, UK: Helicon. Retrieved from https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/gagarin_yuri_1934_1968



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Chicago

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Harvard

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