

Summary of “An Out-of-This-World Vacation” Things that once seemed impossible often become possible over time, and many people believe that space tourism will soon be one of them. Experts predict that within the next decade or two, traveling to space could become common. Many investors are already working on developing space travel technology to make this dream a reality for ordinary people, not just the rich. At the moment, however, only the incredibly wealthy can afford it. In 2001, Dennis Tito, an American millionaire, became the first space tourist, paying \$20 million to spend seven days on the International Space Station after eight months of training. Since then, several other millionaires from different countries have followed his example. Many companies now see this as the beginning of a new industry. They are investing millions of dollars in creating reusable spacecraft to reduce the cost of launching. For example, the Japanese Rocket Society hopes to make space tickets available for around \$10,000 in the future. Virgin Galactic, owned by Richard Branson, is testing spacecraft that can carry tourists into space. Tickets cost about \$160,000, and many people have already booked their seats. One passenger, Lisa Ramirez, said she has dreamed of going to space for 45 years. Other companies have even more ambitious plans. The Shimizu Corporation in Japan is designing a space hotel with 63 rooms that will orbit Earth, while Hilton Hotels hopes to build a hotel on the moon with 5,000 rooms, a beach, and swimming areas. In the future, space tourists will enjoy breathtaking views of Earth, take space walks, and experience zero gravity by floating and swimming in zero-gravity pools. With so much effort and money being invested, it seems certain that space tourism will become a reality — it’s only a matter of when, not if.