**Gagarin Launch Center LC 1/5**

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| Gagarin's Start | |
| Soyuz TMA-3 is launched from Gagarin's Start | |
| **Launch site** | Baikonur Cosmodrome |
| **Location** | 45°55′13″N 63°20′32″E﻿ / ﻿45.920278°N 63.342222°E﻿ / 45.920278; 63.342222 |
| **Short name** | LC-1/5 |
| **Operator** | Soviet space program, Russian Space Agency |
| **Total launches** | TBC |
| **Launch pad(s)** | 1 |
| **Minimum / maximum orbital inclination** | 49° – 99° |
|  | |
| **Launch history** | |
| **Status** | Active |
| **First launch** | R-7, 15 May 1957 |
| **Last launch** | Soyuz TMA-03M, 21 December 2011 |
| **Associated rockets** | R-7 Vostok Voskhod Molniya Soyuz (active) |

**Gagarin's Start** (Russian: Гагаринский старт, *Gagarinskij start*) is a launch site at Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, used for the Soviet space program and now managed by the Russian Federal Space Agency.

The launchpad for the world's first human spaceflight made by Yuri Gagarin on Vostok 1 in 1961, the site was referred to as **Site No.1** (Площадка №1, *Ploshchadka No. 1*) as the first one of its kind. It is also sometimes referred to as *NIIP-5 LC1*, *Baikonur LC1* or *GIK-5 LC1*.

On 17 March 1954 the Council of Ministers ordered several ministries to select a site for a proving ground to test the R-7 rocket by 1 January 1955. A special reconnaissance commission considered several possible geographic regions and selected Tyuratam in the Kazakh SSR. This selection was approved on 12 February 1955 by the Council of Ministers, with a completion of construction targeted for 1958. Work on the construction of Site No.1 began on 20 July 1955 by military engineers. Day and night more than 60 powerful trucks worked at the site; 15,000 cubic meters (20,000 cu yd) of earth were excavated and removed per day, with the total volume estimated to be 750,000 cubic meters (980,000 cu yd). During winter explosives were widely utilized. By the end of October 1956 all primary building and installation of infrastructure for R-7 tests was completed. The Installation and Testing Building (Монтажно-испытательный корпус, *Montazhno-ispytatel'nyj korpus*) named "Site No.2" was built and a special railway completed from there to Site No.1 where the launch pad for the rocket was located. By April 1957 all remaining work was completed and the site was ready for launches.

First intended for the R-7 ballistic missile program, the first ICBM was launched from Site No.1 on 21 August 1957. On 4 October 1957 the pad was used to launch the world's first artificial satellite, Sputnik 1. Manned spaceflights launched from the site include Yuri Gagarin's flight, Valentina Tereshkova's flight, and numerous other human spaceflight missions, including all Soviet and Russian manned spaceflights to Mir. The pad was also used to launch Luna program spacecraft, Mars probe program spacecraft, Venera program spacecraft, many Cosmos satellites and others. From 1957 through 1966 the site hosted ready-to-launch strategic nuclear ICBMs in addition to spacecraft launches;[4] by the 2000s (decade) there were more than 400 launches from the site.

**Gallery**



[Soyuz TMA-16](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soyuz_TMA-16) launches from the Gagarin's Start on September 30, 2009, on its way to the [International Space Station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Space_Station).



[Sunrise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunrise) at the launch pad prior to the rollout of [Soyuz TMA-13](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soyuz_TMA-13), October 10, 2008.



[Progress M-13M](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Progress_M-13M) launches on October 30, 2011.



The flame trench for Gagarin's Start

**See also**

* [Baikonur Cosmodrome Site 31](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baikonur_Cosmodrome_Site_31)

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