



Kennedy Space Center T-38 Talon Aircraft

MERRITT ISLAND, FL

On the northwest side of the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex in Merritt Island, FL a T-38 Talon sits at a dynamic angle, almost as if in flight, in an outdoor display. The high-altitude supersonic jet was first manufactured in the 1950s by the Northrop Corporation's Aircraft Division. They were highly regarded, performing a variety of roles due to their design, economy of operations, ease of maintenance, high performance, and exceptional safety record. Over the last 60 years, NASA has used the T-38s for a wide variety of purposes. During the Apollo through Space Shuttle era, astronauts frequently used them as transportation between NASA locations in preparation for launches into space. More recently, the aircrafts have been used as test platforms, chase aircrafts, and vehicles to allow NASA pilots to maintain their minimum flight requirements.

This particular T-38 is believed to be NASA Aircraft 969, which was first brought to the Kennedy Space Center complex in 2008; its history prior to arrival on site is unknown. It reportedly sat adjacent to the Explorer Orbiter Replica on its landing gear before being installed at its current position in 2009. The interior of the aircraft was reportedly cannibalized, with numerous parts removed. Display records indicate that the aircraft was wholly or partially repainted in-situ in 2018 and 2019 by the Technicolor company....

MORE INFORMATION:

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PROJECT DETAILS

Client

Kennedy Space Center Visitor Center

