



## Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void

By Mary Roach

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**Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void** By Mary Roach

**“America’s funniest science writer” (*Washington Post*) returns to explore the irresistibly strange universe of life without gravity in this *New York Times* bestseller.**

Space is a world devoid of the things we need to live and thrive: air, gravity, hot showers, fresh produce, privacy, beer. Space exploration is in some ways an exploration of what it means to be human. How much can a person give up? How much weirdness can they take? What happens to you when you can’t walk for a year? have sex? smell flowers? What happens if you vomit in your helmet during a space walk? Is it possible for the human body to survive a bailout at 17,000 miles per hour? To answer these questions, space agencies set up all manner of quizzical and startlingly bizarre space simulations. As Mary Roach discovers, it’s possible to preview space without ever leaving Earth. From the space shuttle training toilet to a crash test of NASA’s new space capsule (cadaver filling in for astronaut), Roach takes us on a surreally entertaining trip into the science of life in space and space on Earth.

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### Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

**Amazon Best Books of the Month, August 2010:** With her wry humor and inextinguishable curiosity, Mary Roach has crafted her own quirky niche in the somewhat staid world of science writing, showing no fear (or shame) in the face of cadavers, ectoplasm, or sex. In *Packing for Mars*, Roach tackles the strange science of space travel, and the psychology, technology, and politics that go into sending a crew into orbit. Roach is unfailingly inquisitive (Why is it impolite for astronauts to float upside down during conversations? Just how smelly does a spacecraft get after a two week mission?), and she eagerly seeks out the stories that don't make it onto NASA's website--from SPCA-certified space suits for chimps, to the trial-and-error approach to crafting menus during the space program's early years (when the chefs are former livestock veterinarians, taste isn't high on the priority list). *Packing for Mars* is a book for grownups who still secretly dream of being astronauts, and Roach lives it up on their behalf--weightless in a C-9 aircraft, she just can't resist the opportunity to go "Supermanning" around the cabin. Her zeal for discovery, combined with her love of the absurd, amazing, and stranger-than-fiction, make *Packing for Mars* an uproarious trip into the world of space travel. --Lynette Mong

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From Publishers Weekly

Roach explores the quotidian aspects of space travel for humans with her usual aplomb. She reveals the everyday concerns and aspects--physiological, psychological, and emotional--of long-term space immersion. Sandra Burr proves a great complement to Roach's prose. Her character voices are distinct, and she executes the jargon and technical aspects of space life with a clear and emphatic tone, helping listeners with more complicated passages. She has a matter-of-fact tone with a hint of a wry smile when she explains, say, sex in space, and she is unfailingly clear and affable. A Norton hardcover. (Aug.) (c)  
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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Many reviewers were underwhelmed by Roach's last book, *Bonk*, because they felt she had exhausted the possibilities of her comic-science style: nothing, it seemed, could embarrass her anymore. But Roach appears to have made a course correction in *Packing for Mars*. All the gross-out stuff is still there, but Roach has chosen a topic that is much more likely to genuinely expand readers' knowledge, since this aspect of space travel has rarely been examined. She has also organized the book with an eye toward a legitimate problem: how do we keep astronauts alive for a multiyear voyage needed to get to Mars? A few reviewers pointed out that Roach sometimes forsakes analysis of important issues such as radiation for scatological asides, but critics were generally happy to recommend a book that lives up to Roach's earlier work.

### Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Donna Macdonald:**

The book *Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void* give you a sense of feeling enjoy for

your spare time. You can use to make your capable much more increase. Book can to be your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem with your subject. If you can make reading through a book Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void to become your habit, you can get more advantages, like add your personal capable, increase your knowledge about some or all subjects. It is possible to know everything if you like open up and read a publication Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or some others. So , how do you think about this publication?

**Jose Banks:**

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or go to the outside with them family or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent the entire day to reading a guide. The book Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void it is very good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book offers high quality.

**Vivian Stafford:**

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