

Lunar Orbiter program

The Lunar Orbiter program was a series of five un-crewed lunar orbiter missions launched by the United States from 1966 through 1967. Intended to help select Apollo landing sites by mapping the Moon's surface, they provided the first photographs from lunar orbit and photographed both the Moon and Earth. [Wikipedia](#)

[Started](#): 1963

[Completed](#): January 31, 1968

[First flight](#): August 10, 1966

[Last flight](#): August 1, 1967

[Start date](#): 1963

[Missions](#): Lunar Orbiter 1 Mission, Lunar Orbiter 5 Mission, Lunar Orbiter 3 Mission

<https://www.lpi.usra.edu/resources/lunarorbiter/mission/?1>

[Lunar Orbiter I](#)

Lunar Orbiter I was designed to be a photographic survey program for Apollo landing sites within ± 5 degrees latitude (i.e., along the equator) and ± 45 degrees longitude (i.e., on the lunar near side). The spacecraft was launched August 10, 1966. Between August 18 and 29 it produced 413 high- and moderate-resolution photographs, covering 262,000 square kilometers of the nearside of the Moon and over 3 million square kilometers of the farside of the Moon.

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