
NOVEMBER 18, 2026
The Voyager 1 spacecraft, after traveling for nearly 50 years, crossed a milestone reached by no other human-made object — one light-day away from Earth. That is the distance light can travel in 24 hours.
VOYAGER
ONE
LIGHT
DAY



Launched in 1977, NASA's Voyager 1 sets a new record every day for the farthest human-made object in the universe. On Nov. 18, 2026, Voyager 1 passed a particularly significant milestone when it became the first spacecraft to reach one light-day away from Earth.

A light-day is a measurement of distance, not time, and refers to how far light can travel in 24 hours. Light moves at an incredible 186,000 miles (299,000 kilometers) per second, or 16.09 billion miles (25.89 billion kilometers) per day. Voyager 1, traveling at about 38,000 mph (61,000 kph), has taken nearly 50 years to reach this distance.

Becoming the only human-made object to reach one light-day from Earth is the latest on a long list of remarkable achievements by the Voyager mission, managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, a division of Caltech. The twin Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 probes made historic discoveries at Jupiter and Saturn; and Voyager 2 was the first and, so far, only spacecraft to visit Uranus and Neptune. The first and only spacecraft to enter interstellar space, both probes are now sending back data from this region, which is outside the bubble of particles and magnetic fields created by the Sun. They each carry a golden record containing sounds and images from our planet, acting as ambassadors for humanity as they journey into the unknown.