

Today in History, April 12

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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The headline: "Man in Space! Captain of the First Spaceflight Is Ours, a Soviet!"

Happy Cosmonauts Day! Fifty-two years ago today, on April 12, 1961, Yuri Gagarin became the first person to travel into space. Here's how he described being in space for the first time: "The feeling of weightlessness is somewhat unfamiliar compared with Earth conditions. Here you feel like you are hanging in a horizontal position in straps. You feel like you are suspended."

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