

How do astronauts get to the ISS?

The International Space Station is about 400 kilometres above the earth's surface, which isn't actually that far away; it's a little bit further than travelling from London to Liverpool.

You can make that journey by train in two and a half hours, but getting to the International Space Station takes a little bit long - six hours.

That's not just so the astronauts can enjoy the scenery, although it's pretty spectacular. It's because the space station isn't floating in one place above the earth. It's actually orbiting at about 17,500 miles per hour - that's ten times the speed of a bullet!

So to make sure they get there safely, astronauts take their time, making sure our command capsule and the space station rendezvous perfectly.

It's a difficult trip to make, but it's the start of that journey, when the rocket escapes the earth's gravity, that's probably the most tricky and dangerous.

