

# Review of: "A Case for Nature in Long-Haul Space Exploration"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

Short and sweet. This article observes that humans strongly benefit from nature, that we are visual creatures, and therefore the inclusion of zero mass nature audio-video would be helpful to humans on longer space voyages. These observations are both sound and reasonable, but lack specificity in this short form piece. Further research into the kinds of imagery (static scenes, consistent growth like plants in a window, flowing water, or even nature documentaries) are most effective in improving the morale of the human explorers.

My critique of the article is that it presumes a quite austere environment with little attention to either the potential for larger ships or accommodation for the other "natural" aspects of living on Earth like consistent gravity, circadian rhythms, human contact, or the other senses. Getting out of a gravity well is hard, but once in space size is functionally unlimited. Since many engineering systems scale beneficially the relative mass cost on non-ship components falls quickly with growing ship size and allows for much great latitude in biophillic design, actual plants, spin gravity, and more immersive settings.