

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

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

This is a short article making a case for exposure to nature in some form, to balance the isolation of long space flights, to the moon and Mars. In its present form this is an opinion piece, with some references that back up the authors claim that exposure to nature, or at least views of nature, will be of psychological benefit to astronauts on long flights. While the references do not pertain specifically to space, their assertions are probably applicable, and it is hard to argue with the thesis. On the other hand, there is no mention of any current research in this area on current space missions. Long duration space flights are not new, since the ISS and before that other space stations, have housed humans for extended stays for months at a time. Likewise, there have been simulated Mars missions on earth in various settings, specifically exploring the psychological effects of isolation. The article makes no mention of either the ISS or such missions on Earth. I point out that at great expense, NASA constructed the cupola for the ISS, and its principal benefit was to provide inhabitants views of Earth, so NASA must have the belief, if not the evidence, that such views are critical to such missions. There must be some pertinent literature that can be cited. What is needed is a review article, not an opinion piece, pulling this literature together and identifying gaps that can be filled by future studies.