

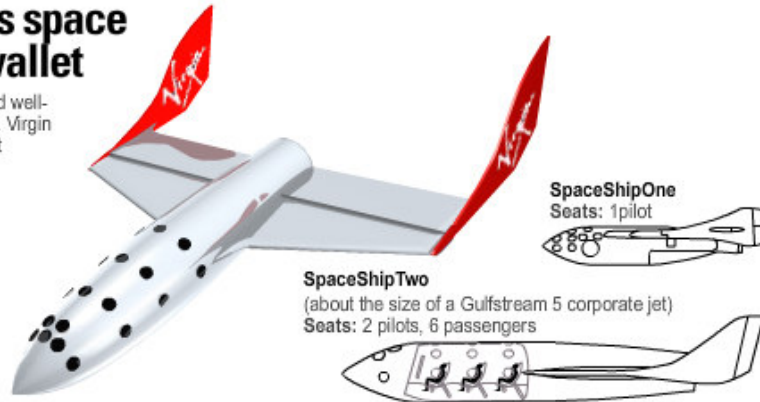
## Trip to weightless space requires heavy wallet

Entrepreneurs are gearing up to send well-heeled people into sub-orbital space. Virgin Galactic, which built and flew the first successful civilian spacecraft in 2004, expects to begin space tours in 2009. Ticket to ride into space: \$200,000.

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Source: Virgin Galactic  
By Anne Carey, Chris Fruitrich  
and Jerry Mosemek, USA TODAY



## Who's paying \$200,000 for a few minutes in space?

More passengers are being courted by 47 travel agents, who have been accredited as "space agents" by Virgin. Jack Ezon, president of Ovation Vacations in New York City, says he has sold two tickets for space trips: one to a hedge fund manager and the other to a CEO of a financial company.