

THE MILLENNIUM FALCON

Could this iconic ship really have graced the skies of the *Star Wars* universe?

Perhaps there is no spaceship as memorable as the *Millennium Falcon* in any film or TV show. Once merely a freighter, it proved its worth by helping to destroy two Death Stars, and it could even make mincemeat of the Kessel Run.

Although many of the technologies employed were a bit far-fetched, some are grounded in reality. Its impulse engines for one were powered by nuclear fusion, something that we're just getting to grips with in the real world. And while this ship could travel faster than the speed of light, we do know it's theoretically possible for a spaceship to at least get near to light speed.

Inside the Falcon

How this ship may have transported Han Solo across the galaxy

Manufacturer
Corellian Engineering Corporation
Model
Corallion YT-1300f
Class
Light freighter (modified)
Length
34.75 metres
Crew
2 (minimum)

Hyperdrive
Using fictional hypermatter, this drive enabled the ship to go faster than light, which is something that's just not possible in our current understanding of physics.

Fuel
The ship's below-light-speed engines were powered by radioactive liquid metal — something we probably wouldn't recommend launching into orbit.

Sublight engines

The nuclear fuel was ignited to start a fusion reaction to provide thrust. Fusion rocket design is a purely hypothetical idea, however.

Escape pods

On the ISS, astronauts use Soyuz capsules as emergency pods — not too far removed from what you see here.

Water recycling

Just like on the ISS, the *Millennium Falcon* recycles its water, providing its crew with drinking water.

The ship is powered by fictional exotic particles called hypermatter, which you won't find in any textbooks. But we do know of plenty of other exotic matter. Maybe something out there might power our own *Millennium Falcon* one day.

Power core

The *Millennium Falcon* was powered by hypermatter, an exotic form of particles that you won't find anywhere in our real universe.

Weapons

While the laser cannons might be a bit far-fetched, it's rumoured the Soviet Union once tested a cannon in space.

Main hold

Passengers can 'relax' in the main hold during flight and even sit down to a game of dejarik (holographic chess).

Anti-gravity

The acceleration compensator apparently keeps the crew grounded in the ship. Anti-gravity systems like this, however, do not exist.

Cockpit

Witness to many tense moments, most of the Falcon is controlled from here, including the deflector shield.

Hyperdrive vent

This ejects tachyons into space, hypothetical particles that can travel faster than light. However, we've never found any.

Airlock

Airlocks are something we use regularly in spaceflight, and this design looks similar to what you'd see on the ISS.

The International Space Station's Quest Joint Airlock can be depressurised to prepare astronauts for spacewalks, and pressurised again when they return.