



## **Burnout:**

### **The real-life locations**

*Burnout* may be fiction, but a number of its locations are based on fact – and some of them are not well-known.

*Here are a few:*

## **AUSTRALIA:**

### **Anglo-Australian Observatory Sydney, Australia**

The AAO operates the Anglo-Australian and UK Schmidt telescopes on behalf of the astronomical communities of Australia and the UK. To this end the Observatory is funded by the Australian and British Governments. Its function is to provide world-class observing facilities for British and Australian optical astronomers.

Headquartered in Sydney, Australia, it operates the 3.9 metre Anglo-Australian Telescope (AAT) located at Coonabarabran, NSW, Australia

### **Canberra ACT Australia**

Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, is the capital city of Australia. With a population of over 340,000, it is Australia's largest inland city and the eighth largest Australian city overall. The city is located at the northern end of the Australian Capital Territory, 280 km (170 mi) south-west of Sydney, and 660 km (410 mi) north-east of Melbourne. The site of Canberra was selected for the location of the nation's capital in 1908 as a compromise between rivals Sydney and Melbourne, Australia's two largest cities. It is unusual among Australian cities, being an entirely purpose-built, planned city.

**Uluru****Ayers Rock**

Australian Aboriginal proper name for Ayers Rock; a huge red sandstone natural monolith, deep in the Australian Outback desert, very nearly at the center of the continent. The monolith, as well as several nearby formations, is sacred to certain tribes of Aborigines.

**UNITED STATES:****Marshall Space Flight Center****Huntsville, Alabama**

The George C. Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC), the original home of NASA, is a lead center for propulsion, Space Shuttle propulsion, Space Shuttle external tank, crew training and payloads, International Space Station (ISS) design and construction, for computers, networks, and information management. Located on the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, MSFC is named in honor of General George Marshall.

The center also contains the Huntsville Operations Support Center (HOSC) that is a facility that supports Space Shuttle launch, payload and experiment activities, ISS launch and experiment operations. The HOSC also monitors rocket launches from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station when a Marshall Center payload is on board.

**Area 51****Groom Lake, Nevada**

A legendary, highly secure area within the Nevada Test Range, to which urban legend commonly ascribes alien spacecraft, the remains of the Roswell crash (including alien bodies), and research, development, and testing for air and space craft based on the alien technology stored there.

**McCarran Airport****Las Vegas, Nevada**

Large airport in Las Vegas from which purported regular flights to and from Area 51 occur. It is the principal commercial airport serving Las Vegas and Clark County, Nevada, United States. The airport is located five miles (8 km) south of the central business district of Las Vegas, in the unincorporated area of Paradise in Clark County. It covers an area of 2,800 acres (11 km<sup>2</sup>) and has four runways. McCarran is owned by Clark County and operated by the Clark County Department of Aviation (DOA). It serves as a focus city for Allegiant Air, Southwest Airlines, and US Airways; McCarran is also the largest operation base

for both Allegiant and Southwest. It is named after the former Nevada Senator Pat McCarran.

**Groom Lake  
Nevada**

Lake bed within the Nevada Test Range, commonly used as a euphemistic designator for Area 51.

**Very Large Array  
Socorro, New Mexico**

The Very Large Array (VLA), a radio astronomy observatory, consists of 27 radio antennas in a Y-shaped configuration on the Plains of San Agustin fifty miles west of Socorro, New Mexico. Each antenna is 25 meters (82 feet) in diameter.

**Clear Lake Texas**

Southern suburb of Houston, surrounding JSC

**Brenham, Texas**

Brenham is a city in central Texas in Washington County, Texas, United States, with a population of 13,507 according to the 2000 census. It is the county seat of Washington County. Brenham is south of College Station.

**Friendswood Texas**

Southern suburb of Houston

**Johnson Space Center  
Houston, Texas**

The **Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center** ("JSC") is the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's center for human spaceflight activities. The center consists of a complex of 100 buildings constructed on 1,620 acres located in southeast Houston, Texas. Johnson Space Center is home to the United States astronaut corps and is responsible for training astronauts from both the U.S. and its international partners. The center, originally known as the "Manned Spacecraft Center" was constructed on land donated by Rice University and was opened in 1963. In 1973, the center was renamed in honor of the late President and Texas native, Lyndon B. Johnson.

The Johnson Space Center is home to Mission Control Center (MCC-H), the NASA control center that coordinates and monitors all human spaceflight for the United States. MCC-H directs all Space Shuttle missions and activities aboard the International Space Station.

## **Death Valley**

### **Death Valley California**

Death Valley is a desert located in the southwestern United States. It is the lowest, driest, and hottest location in North America. Located on the border between California and Nevada, southeast of the Sierra Nevada mountains in the Great Basin and the Mojave Desert, Death Valley constitutes much of Death Valley National Park and is the principal feature of the Mojave and Colorado Deserts Biosphere Reserve. It is located mostly in Inyo County, California. It runs from north to south between the Amargosa Range on the east and the Panamint Range on the west; the Sylvania Mountains and the Owlshead Mountains form its northern and southern boundaries, respectively. It has an area of about 3,000 square miles (~7,800 km<sup>2</sup>).

### **Inyokern, California**

Inyokern is a census-designated place (CDP) in Kern County, California, United States. Located in the Indian Wells Valley. The population was 984 at the 2000 census. It was a railroad town established along the Southern Pacific railroad Lone Pine Branch (now removed). It is served by Inyokern Airport. State Route 178, the main east-west artery, connects Inyokern to Bakersfield, the county seat, via Lake Isabella in the west, and to Death Valley via Ridgecrest in the east.