

LIU YANG

On June 16, 2012, Liu Yang traveled aboard the Shenzhou 9 mission that docked with the space module Tiangong 1, becoming the first Chinese woman in space. This historic trip happened 49 years to the day after Russian cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova's pioneering flight into space for women. During her mission in space, Liu was in charge of the medical experiments. Born in 1978, Liu had an accomplished career as a pilot before becoming an astronaut in 2010. She graduated from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Air Force College in Changchun and earned over 1,600 hours of flying experience, eventually achieving the rank of major.