Humankind goes interstellar



It’s only taken 36 years but, after [a couple of false starts](http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2013/03/voyager-1-leaving-solar-system/), NASA finally declared that their Voyager 1 spacecraft [had gone interstellar](http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2013/09/voyager-left-solar-system/). **Telltale** measurements from the probe revealed that it had slipped out from the area where the sun’s electromagnetic influence **reigns** and tasted the space between stars. Not bad for a piece of **vintage** '70s hardware with [only enough memory onboard to hold an average-size JPEG file](http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2013/09/vintage-voyager-probes/).

Next stop: the Oort Cloud, which represents the edge of the sun’s gravitational influence and the end of the solar system. But don't hold your breath. It's going to take about 30,000 years to get there.

Image: NASA

**Source**: <http://www.wired.com/2013/12/top-scientific-discoveries-2013>

* *It’s only taken* – (Irony) It has taken 36 years!
* *False starts* – unsuccessful attempts to begin
* *Telltale* – clues that show something to be true
* *Reigns* – has influence and power over a region
* *Not bad for* – It is a pretty good performance for
* *Vintage* – out of date, quite old (but **not** antique)
* *But don’t hold your breath* – It will not happen soon