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How high, how far

Official pages do not give one height for Hubble, or one distance for Webb.

Ask how high Hubble flies, and official NASA pages will give you several figures, in several units. Ask how far Webb travelled, and you will find a "29-day, million-mile journey" on one page and "1.5 million km" on another. This sheet does not average them.

What is being measured	Official wording, kept apart
Hubble, observatory page	"orbits roughly 300 miles (483 km) above Earth's surface."
Hubble, a 25 April 1990 photograph	"suspended above shuttle Discovery's cargo bay 332 nautical miles above Earth."
Hubble, a deployment facts box	deployed in a "380-statute-mile orbit."
Hubble, on the Webb fact sheet	"Hubble orbits 560 kilometers above the Earth."
Webb, launch page	After launch, "the telescope deployed on its 29-day, million-mile journey out to the second Lagrange point (L2)."
Webb, fact sheet	"1.5 million km from Earth orbiting the L2 Point."

A note about L2

The Webb FAQs say the observatory "will not reside precisely at the L2 point but will slowly rotate around it twice per year in a loop that is even bigger than the Moon's orbit around the Earth." All major deployments were completed on 8 January 2022.

A short quiz

1. Which official page writes "roughly 300 miles (483 km)"?
2. What journey wording does the launch page use for the trip to L2?
3. When do the FAQs say all major Webb deployments were completed?

Answers. 1. The Hubble Observatory page. 2. A "29-day, million-mile journey." 3. 8 January 2022.

Wording from NASA Science, Hubble Observatory; Hubble Deployment; Webb Fact Sheet; Webb's Launch; and Webb FAQs. Checked 17 November 2026.
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