Outer Wilds

Accessibility Score: ★★☆☆☆

Outer Wilds is an open exploration game built around spaceflight, planetary discovery, and unraveling a time-loop mystery. For blind players, success comes from mastering ship controls by muscle memory, learning environmental soundscapes, and developing consistent exploration routes. Your strongest tools will be audio-based navigation, structured flight routines, and well-organized note-taking on discoveries.

World Awareness — Navigating Space, Planets, and Landmarks

- Anchor Locations: Treat your launch pad on Timber Hearth as your central hub for each loop.
- Route Familiarity: Memorize safe flight paths to each planet and hazard-free landing zones.
- Environmental Sound Cues: Use unique ambient sounds — rushing sand, geysers, humming ruins, or wind — to identify locations.
- Planetary Zones: Break each planet into mental sectors — poles, equator, underground — to track explored areas.
- Time-Loop Awareness: Listen for environmental changes (like rumbling or collapsing sounds) that indicate time progression.

Ship and Tool Mastery — Playing to Your Strengths

- Consistent Control Inputs: Always follow the same sequence for liftoff, flight adjustments, and landing.
- Audio-Distinct Tools: The signalscope, probe launcher, and translator all have unique audio feedback — learn their sounds.
- Low-Speed Landings: Approach surfaces slowly, listening for landing gear contact sounds.
- Oxygen and Fuel Awareness: Track the beeping alerts for low resources to plan returns.

Exploration Discipline — Building a Reliable Search Pattern

- Systematic Scanning: Use the signalscope in a fixed pattern upon arrival to detect points of interest.

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- Interior Mapping: Move through structures using wall-follow techniques to avoid missing paths.
- Hazard Sound Cues: Listen for lava bubbling, water currents, or sand flow to avoid dangerous areas.
- Loop-to-Loop Consistency: Repeat exploration routes each loop to deepen your mental map without losing progress.

Mastering Menus and Logs
- Ship Log Organization: Keep external notes that mirror the in-game rumor map for clarity.
- Clue Tracking: Record important signals, coordinates, or coded messages you've uncovered.
- Tool Prep Routine: Equip and use tools in the same sequence to avoid mix-ups mid-exploration.
- Navigation Memory: Note how long travel takes between planets to avoid running out of time in a loop.

Exploring Without Visuals
- Landmark Soundscapes: Learn the unique environmental noises of key structures or anomalies.
- Approach-by-Audio: Use rising or falling audio intensity to home in on signalscope pings.
- Return Path Memory: Track your movement direction so you can retrace steps without visuals.
- Zero-Gravity Control: Make small, deliberate jetpack adjustments to prevent disorientation.

Learn More:
My best friend is visually impaired and thus cannot fully experience this game, although she really wants to.