

25 June 2024



(Picture credits: AFP PHOTO/CNSA)

Chang'e 6 lunar sample return (2024)

Space agency/country: China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation

Mission: *Chang'e 6*

On this day, the *Chang'e 6* lunar probe safely landed back on Earth after retrieving rock and soil samples from the far side of the Moon. The China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation is the first space agency to accomplish this kind of mission, marking China as the first country to have successfully landed probes on the far side of the Moon, twice since 2019. The probe's return capsule landed in Siziwang Banner, in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. The samples that have been extracted by the lander's drill and robot arm will be carefully analysed. They are expected to help scientists answer many questions regarding the geological differences between the near and far sides of the Moon, as well as regarding the formation history of our natural satellite.

For more information:

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-06-24/China-s-Chang-e-6-mission-enters-final-return-stage-1uHuWKxrzfq/p.html>

<https://www.space.com/change-6-sample-return-science-investigations-scientists>