



China's Chang'e-6

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Recently, [China's Chang'e-6 probe](#) successfully **collected rock and soil samples** from the **moon's far side** and lifted off from the lunar surface to return to Earth.

- The probe's landing site was the **South Pole-Aitken Basin**, an impact crater created more than 4 billion years ago, which is 13 kilometres deep and has a diameter of 2,500 kilometres.
 - The landing site for [Chandrayaan-3](#) was near the lunar **south pole**.
- The mission to the **moon's far side** is challenging due to the lack of direct communication with Earth, requiring a relay satellite, and the rugged terrain with fewer flat landing areas.
- The mission is the sixth in the **Chang'e moon exploration program**, which is named after a **Chinese moon goddess**. It is the second design to bring back samples, following the **Chang'e 5, which did so from the near side in 2020**.
- China **aims to land astronauts** on the moon before 2030, and this mission is a significant step towards that goal.

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