BACK TO EARTH WITH A BUMP!

Reported by Amanda Kelper, Media Correspondent, London

Last week, British astronaut Tim Peake returned home from an incredible six month stay aboard the International Space Station (ISS), alongside his crewmates Yuri Malenchenko and Timothy Kopra. He is the first British astronaut to have lived on the ISS.

The men were launched into space on 15th December 2015. The mission involved conducting experiments, testing out new technology and inspiring the next generation of space travellers. Peake told reporters that the best part of his mission was a spacewalk where he had to make a repair on the space station.

Having circled the planet nearly 3,000 times, the crew returned home to Earth in a capsule, which reached speeds of up to 28,000 kilometres per hour. The touchdown was bumpy due to high winds, however the astronauts landed safely in Kazakhstan, all returning in good health. Having arrived back on solid ground, the astronauts were pulled out of the capsule and carried as their leg muscles were too weak to walk. Whilst sitting in their space suits, the men were checked over by medical staff. During these checks, Peake was asked how it felt to be home, 'The smells of Earth are so strong and it's wonderful to be back in the fresh air.'



Landing with a bump! Tim Peake lands safely in Kazakhstan.

Tim later flew from Kazakhstan to the headquarters of the European Stage Agency in Germany where he is getting used to life back on Earth. Scientists are carrying out tests to see how his body has been affected by his time in space.

Peake recently commented on how he'd missed family and friends, and even the rain. Tim said he was now looking forward to spending some quality time with his family. When asked if he'd return to space in the future, he replied, '...in a heartbeat.'

Having been recognised by the Queen for his services to science, Tim is now a CMG, or companion of the order of St Michael and St George. He dedicated this award to his entire team.

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Last week, British astronaut Tim Peake returned home from an incredible six month stay aboard the International Space Station (ISS), alongside his crewmates Yuri Malenchenko and Timothy Kopra. He is the first British astronaut to have lived on the ISS.

The men were launched into space on 15th December 2015 and in the months before take-off, they trained intensively for their trip. Training involved learning to speak Russian, spending 12 days under the sea and a winter survival expedition.

During their space mission, the astronauts conducted experiments, tested out new technology and inspired the next generation of space travellers. Peake told reporters that the highlight of his trip was a spacewalk where he had to make a repair on the space station. Whilst he was 400km away from his home, Tim also ran the equivalent of the London Marathon on his treadmill.

Having circled the planet nearly 3,000 times in 186 days, the crew returned home to Earth via a Soyuz capsule, which reached speeds of up to 28,000 kilometres per hour (25 times the speed of sound). The touchdown was bumpy due to high winds, however the astronauts landed safely near the town of Zhezkazgan in Kazakhstan. They all returned in good health. Having arrived back on solid ground, the astronauts were pulled out of the capsule and carried as their leg muscles were too weak to walk. Whilst sitting in their space suits, the men were checked over by medical staff. During these checks, Peake was asked how it felt to be home, 'The smells of Earth are so strong and it's wonderful to be back in the fresh air.'



Landing with a bump! Tim Peake lands safely in Kazakhstan.

Tim later flew from Kazakhstan to the headquarters of the European Space Agency in Cologne, Germany where he is recovering and adjusting to life back on Earth. Scientists are carrying out tests to see how his body has been affected by his time in space.

In a recent press conference, Peake commented on how he'd missed family and friends, and even the rain. Tim expressed how much he was now looking forward to spending some quality time with his family. When asked if he'd return to space in the future, he replied, '...in a heartbeat.'

His service to science has earned him an honour from the Queen. Peake was made a CMG, or companion of the order of St Michael and St George. In response, Tim said, 'I am only one privileged person in a complex team of technicians, scientists, engineers, educators, trainers and flight directors, all working in pursuit of one of the greatest scientific and technical challenges of our time – exploring our solar system for the benefit of people on Earth. This award is for them.'

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