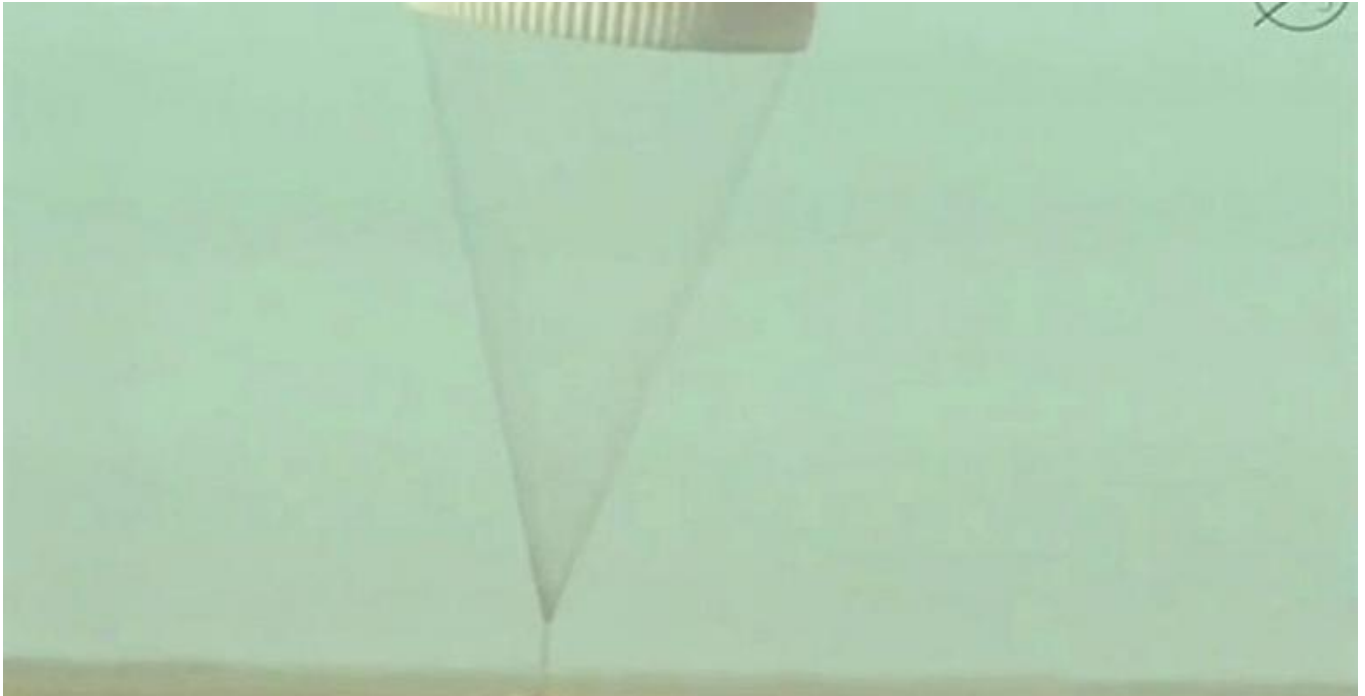


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Space Expedition 50 crew touches down in Kazakhstan after 170 days in orbit

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The three international crew members of Expedition 50 have landed safely in the Kazakhstan steppes, thus bringing their 173-day mission at the International Space Station (ISS) to an end.

[Expedition 50](#) concluded successfully as the Soyuz MS-02 spacecraft's landing module touched down at around 10:20 GMT 146km (91 miles) from the town of Zhezkazgan on the Kazakhstan steppe.

[@NASA](#) Earth has 3 more people on it as [@Astro\\_Kimbrough](#), Sergey Ryzhikov & Andrey Borisenko land at 7:20am ET. Watch: <http://www.nasa.gov/nasatv>

"The crewmembers feel well. Medics are examining the space travelers upon return to Earth," the Russian Federal Space Agency's RKA Mission Control Center told RIA Novosti.

[@NASA](#) What's involved in returning to Earth from [@Space\\_Station](#)? This animation shows the sequence of events. Watch live: <http://www.nasa.gov/nasatv>

NASA's mission commander Robert Shane Kimbrough and two Russian flight engineers, Andrey Borisenko and Sergey Ryzhikov, boarded the Soyuz spacecraft early on Monday and undocked from the space station at 7:57 GMT.

[@NASA @Astro\\_Kimbrough](#), Sergey Ryzhikov & Andrey Borisenko undocked from [@Space\\_Station](#) at 3:57am ET. Watch live: <http://www.nasa.gov/nasatv>

While on the mission, the crew researched the influence of lighting on the overall health and well-being of humans in space, examined the genetic properties of space-grown plants, and looked at human tissue regeneration in microgravity.

[@NASA @Astro\\_Kimbrough](#), Sergey Ryzhikov & Andrey Borisenko have departed [@Space\\_Station](#) on their journey home to Earth after 173 days in space

Back at the ISS, command was transferred to NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson, starting Expedition 51. Whitson becomes the first woman to command two ISS expeditions, as she was in charge of Expedition 16.

Russian cosmonaut Oleg Novitskiy and French flight engineer Thomas Pesquet have also stayed at the station for Expedition 51. Two other members are expected to join them in 10 days, after their Soyuz MS-04 blasts off on April 20.

RT correspondent Maria Finoshina caught the emotional moment for Andrey Borisenko's family right after the landing. *"Of course we have been worrying, but we are sure of our equipment and that everything will be all right,"* the cosmonaut's father, Ivan, told RT. *"It's not like walking in the park or a trip to another city,"* Borisenko's wife, Natalia, added. Andrey Borisenko is the cosmonaut behind the [RT 360 space project](#), which has been bringing [panoramic videos](#) from aboard the ISS for the first time ever.

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