



Balloon rides to the edge of space!

Spaceship Neptune, a 200m vehicle that includes a balloon and tethered capsule, aims to take tourists on flights to the edge of space. The pressurized capsule, with refreshments bar and toilet, will be operated by a company called Space Perspective from leased facilities at the Kennedy Space Center. The high-altitude-balloon hopes to carry eight passengers, lifting off into the predawn sky to see the stars and then the sun rise. The company say "Space Perspective's magnificent, safe suborbital flight via space balloon will smoothly fly you to the edge of space. Soak in the curvature of our beautiful planet against the blackness of space, while gently sailing along inside the revolutionary, near-zero emissions Neptune capsule above the rich colours of the Earth below."



Pictured: An illustration of Spaceship Neptune from Space Perspective's Twitter page.

One-fifth of the ocean floor is mapped



Pictured: A picture of the ocean floor in the Maldives featuring Midnight snapper, a shoal of Orange Anthias and Red-toothed Triggerfish. Source: Mal B.

The Nippon Foundation-GEBCO (General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans) Seabed 2030 Project has announced that almost one-fifth of Earth's ocean floor is now mapped. The project aims to produce a complete, freely available map of the entire ocean floor by 2030. We currently know less about the ocean floor than the surface of the moon or Mars! When Seabed 2030 was launched in 2017, only 6% of the ocean floor had been mapped to modern standards. It was recently announced, on World Hydrography Day, that an extra 14.5 million square kilometres of new bathymetric data had been added to the latest GEBCO Grid. "Today we stand at the 19% level. That means we've got another 81% of the oceans still to survey, still to map. That's an area about twice the size of Mars that we have to capture in the next decade," project director Jamie McMichael-Phillips.



Soap bubbles could help pollination

Although bees are the best pollinators, scientists are trying to come up with high tech alternatives. Researchers in Japan have developed a soap bubble-based pollination method that is as effective as doing it by hand. Eijiro Miyako, a materials chemist at the Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, has developed a drone delivered soap bubble system that could help pollinate flowers. Miyako discovered that using a drone alone was damaging the plants and it wasn't until he was blowing bubbles with his son at a park that he came up with the idea. He thought the bubbles would be soft, light and flexible enough to pollinate flowers without harming them. In laboratory tests, bubbles successfully delivered pollen to Campanula flowers.



Pictured: Soap bubbles. Source: Brandy Hollins.

Your thoughts on the news...

It is important to have a routine in our busy lives. Everyone knows what needs to be done when and where, this helps everyone to be organised. It helps not to forget important things like cleaning my teeth.
Henry Stiles - Age 8



I think having a routine is important because you have a plan for the day, it is good for your mental health.
Evie Goodwin- Age 10

I find that it is nice to have a routine, but I do not think it is that important.
Aaron - Age 8

What was your opinion on this week's news? Visit our discussion area, found here:
www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss
to share your thoughts!

Routines are good so you remember what you need to do but they also should be flexible, so it doesn't get boring!
Tommy - Age 9



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