

China sends "Jade Rabbit" to the moon

Chang'e-3, the first spacecraft in 37 years scheduled to land on the moon, comprises a six-wheeled rover designed to deploy from the lander and explore the lunar surface independently

MISSION TIMELINE

1 Dec 1: Probe launches atop *Long March 3B* rocket, from Xichang Launch Centre

2 Dec 6: Enters lunar orbit

3 Dec 16: Lands in plain of basaltic lava known as *Sinus Iridum*

2013
Chang'e-3

1976
Luna 24

1969
Apollo 11

Moon landings
U.S. ●
USSR ●

Braking rockets ensure gentle landing

LANDER: Stationary observatory includes first ultraviolet telescope to be deployed on Moon

Height
1.5m

Navigation cameras

Yutu can climb inclines of up to 30 degrees and travel up to 200m per hour

Weight
120kg

Solar panels

YUTU:
Jade Rabbit, named after mythological pet of lunar goddess *Chang'e*, will explore 3sq-km area during three-month mission

Ground-penetrating radar: Scans Moon's subsurface to depths of over 100m

Robot arm: Equipped with alpha particle X-ray spectrometer to probe chemical composition of soil