

# How the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft returns

## International Space Station (ISS)



- 1** Dragon detaches from ISS



- 2** Trunk jettisoned (burns up in Earth's atmosphere)



**Trunk**  
Carried unpressurised cargo to ISS

- 3** Fires thrusters for 15-minute de-orbit burn



- 4** Endures temperature of 1,600°C on re-entry



- 5** At 1,800 metres, deploys four parachutes that suspend capsule at angle to lessen splashdown impact



**Splashdown:** Off Florida coast

## Dragon spacecraft

**Parachute hatch**

**Nose cone**  
Conceals docking hatch to ISS

**Crew hatch**

SPACEX

**Heat shield**

**Manoeuvring thrusters**

Control orbit adjustment and altitude

**SuperDraco rockets**

Used during re-entry and if capsule needs to be jettisoned during launch abort