

# International Research Destination

New Zealand is a regular destination/host for a number of international research projects:

## 2015-03: NASA Scientific Research Balloon

<http://www.csbf.nasa.gov/newzealand/wanaka.htm>

[QLDC-NASA-Balloon-Launch-Fact-Sheet-Feb15-Web.pdf](#)

**NASA balloon launch at Wanaka Airport**

### Basic facts

The balloon is a zero-pressure balloon, which means it is not inflated to a fixed volume. Instead, it expands as it rises, reaching a maximum altitude of approximately 120,000 feet (37,000 meters). The balloon is filled with helium gas, which is lighter than the surrounding air, allowing it to rise. The balloon is launched from Wanaka Airport in New Zealand, which is one of the few locations in the world where balloons can be launched from the ground.

The balloon is launched from a launch pad at Wanaka Airport. The launch pad is a large, open area that is used for the launch of balloons. The balloon is attached to a payload that contains scientific instruments. The payload is suspended from the bottom of the balloon. As the balloon rises, the payload is carried to a high altitude where it can collect data on the atmosphere.

### Questions and answers

**Q: How long will the balloon be in the air?**  
A: The balloon will be in the air for approximately 24 hours. It will rise to its maximum altitude and then descend back to the ground. The descent is controlled by a parachute that is deployed at a predetermined altitude.

**Q: What kind of data will be collected?**  
A: The payload contains scientific instruments that will collect data on the atmosphere. This data includes temperature, pressure, humidity, and wind speed. The data is transmitted back to the ground station via a radio link.

### How do I find out more?

For more information, please contact the NASA Civil Servant Balloon Facility (CSBF) at [csbf@nasa.gov](mailto:csbf@nasa.gov) or call 1-800-451-5600. You can also visit the CSBF website at [www.csbf.nasa.gov](http://www.csbf.nasa.gov).