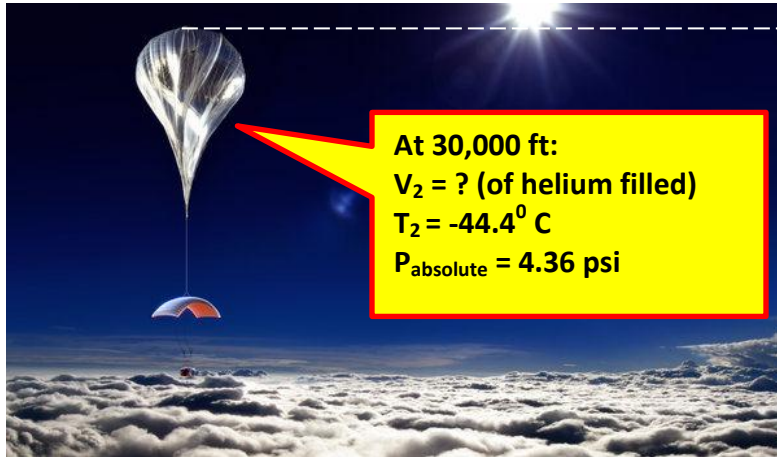


GAS LAW

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Balloon Ride to Offer Expansive View, for a Price



At 30,000 ft:
 $V_2 = ?$ (of helium filled)
 $T_2 = -44.4^\circ \text{C}$
 $P_{\text{absolute}} = 4.36 \text{ psi}$

At earth's surface:
 $V_1 = V = \text{balloon volume (Helium)}$
 $T_1 = 15^\circ \text{C}$
 $P_{\text{absolute}} = 14.7 \text{ psi}$
 Interior pressure in balloon is same as exterior pressure. But, density inside balloon is less than outside density. This density difference is why balloons float.

A rendering of the balloon, which would **climb about 18.5 miles** and stay up for a couple of hours before its promised gentle descent. And now, a high-altitude adventure for the leisure class, people who do not want to be jostled as they sip Champagne and gaze down at Earth's curved blue surface.



A rendering of the capsule, which would carry six passengers and a crew of two.



EARTH'S SURFACE

INTRODUCTION: Read the comments and initial and final conditions in above boxes. The ideal gas equation is obeyed here on earth's surface and at 30,000 ft. .
 $PV = NkT$ where $P = \text{absolute pressure} = p_{\text{gage}} + B_{\text{atmos}}$
 $V = \text{volume}$, $N = \# \text{ of molecules of gas}$, $k = \text{Boltzmann's constant}$
 $T = \text{absolute temperature} = t(\text{degrees C}) + 273$. Since N is same on earth surface as at 30,000 ft..... $Nk = P_1V_1/T_1 = P_2V_2/T_2$. We assume exterior air temperature is same as interior balloon helium temperature.

QUESTIONS: (a) $T_1 = ?$, (b) $T_2 = ?$, (c) $V_2 = ?$ (in terms of V)

ANSWERS: (a) 288°K , (b) 228.6°K , (c) $2.68 V$

NOTE: Balloons expand as they rise into the air and interior density is always less than exterior air density.

A new space tourism company named [World View](#) unveiled its plans on Tuesday to loft passengers to the stratosphere **as early as 2015**, not by rocket but by giant balloon. Price: \$75,000. (Drinks included.) World View is led by the same people involved in [Inspiration Mars](#), a private endeavor to launch two people in 2018 to a flyby of the red planet. "This is a very gentle flight that will last for hours aloft," said Jane Poynter, World View's chief executive. She said the **cabin would be about the size of that of a private jet, and would have a "superbly comfortable, luxurious interior where you can get up and stand upright and move around and go back to the bar and get a drink."** By contrast, World View's balloon and capsule, **with six passengers and two crew members**, would take about an hour and a half to reach altitude and then drift for a couple of hours before the balloon was jettisoned and the capsule would glide back to Earth beneath an inflated parasail. "We really think there is a market for being able to contemplate the view," said Taber MacCallum, the company's chief technology officer.