

ANTARCTICA - AKADEMIK SHOKALSKY



INTRODUCTION

This is a 25 day expedition voyage to East Antarctica starting and ending in Invercargill, New Zealand. The journey will explore the rugged landscape and wildlife-rich Subantarctic Islands and cross the Antarctic circle into Mawson's Antarctica. Conditions depending, it will hope to visit Cape Denison, the location of Mawson's Hut.

East Antarctica is one of the most remote and least frequented stretches of coast in the world and was the fascination of Australian Antarctic explorer, Sir Douglas Mawson. A true Australian hero, Douglas Mawson's initial interest in Antarctica was scientific. Whilst others were racing for polar records, Mawson was studying Antarctica and leading the charge on claiming a large chunk of the continent for Australia. On his quest Mawson, along with Xavier Mertz and Belgrave Ninnis, set out to explore and study east of the Mawson's Hut. On what began as a journey of discovery and science ended in Mertz and Ninnis perishing and Mawson surviving extreme conditions against all odds, with next to no food or supplies in the bitter cold of Antarctica.

This expedition allows you to embrace your inner explorer to the backdrop of incredible scenery such as glaciers, icebergs and rare fauna while looking out for myriad whale, seal and penguin species. A truly unique journey not to be missed.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Invercargill

Arrive at Invercargill, New Zealand's southernmost city. Established by Scottish settlers, the area's wealth of rich farmland is well suited to the sheep and dairy farms that dot the landscape. Passengers should make their way to the Ascot Park Hotel where our group will spend the first night of the expedition. This evening there will be an informal get-together at the hotel for dinner; an excellent opportunity to meet fellow adventurers on your voyage and some of our expedition team.



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DURATION

25 Days

LOCATIONS

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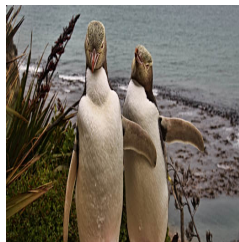
DAY 2: Port of Bluff

Enjoy breakfast in the hotel restaurant and explore some of the local Southland scenery and attractions before heading to the Port of Bluff to embark the Akademik Shokalskiy. Settle into your cabin and join your expedition team and the captain for a welcome on board.



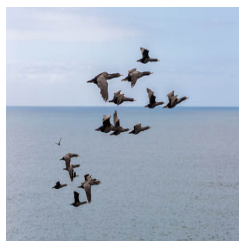
DAY 3: The Snares

It has been claimed that the closest of the Subantarctic Islands to New Zealand, The Snares, are home to more nesting seabirds than all of the British Isles put together. Uninhabited and protected, the only mammals are marine; New Zealand fur seals and sea lions found at the base of the imposing cliffs. Zodiac cruising the jagged coast we learn how the islands got their name, and in the sheltered bays we should see endemic Snares Crested Penguin, Snares Island Tomtit and Snares Island Fernbird plus Sooty Shearwater and returning-to-nest Buller's Albatross. From the water we can view the unique large tree daisies Olearia lyallii and Brachyglottis stewartiae which dominate much of the island, draping the hills and creating a forest canopy.



DAY 4: At Sea

As we make our way through the tumultuous Southern Ocean's 'Furious Fifties', we will learn more about Subantarctic flora and fauna as we prepare for our arrival at Macquarie Island. En route there are great birding opportunities which may include the Wandering Albatross, Royal Albatross, Black-browed Albatross, Light-mantled Sooty Albatross, Salvin's Albatross, Grey-headed Albatross, Northern and Southern Giant Petrel, Sooty Shearwater and Little Shearwater. We will also endeavour to spot the Fairy Prion, Fulmar Prion and Antarctic Prion.



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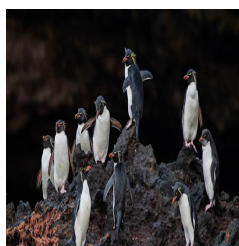
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DAY 5: Macquarie Island - Day 5 & 6

We continue our passage through the 'Furious Fifties' this morning and prepare for our arrival at Macquarie Island, or 'Macca' as it is also affectionately known, later today. This UNESCO World Heritage Site, and Australia's jewel in the Southern Ocean, has a history firmly linked to Mawson's endeavours. In 1911, he established the island's first scientific station. As well as mapping the island and conducting geomagnetic observations, he studied the island's botany, zoology, meteorology and geology. This expedition also established a radio relay station on Wireless Hill that could communicate with both Australia and the expedition group at Commonwealth Bay. This enduring windy, rocky outpost supports one of the highest concentrations of wildlife in the Southern Hemisphere. Millions of penguins breed here with four different species: King, Rockhopper, Gentoo and the endemic Royal calling this island home. We plan to spend our time divided between two approved landing sites, Sandy Bay and Buckles Bay, as well as taking a Zodiac cruise at Lusitania Bay if, weather conditions permit. You will never forget your first experience of Sandy Bay's perpetually active penguin metropolis, where the dapper inhabitants show no fear of visitors. The King Penguin rookery at Lusitania Bay is noisy and spectacular. A welcoming committee will likely porpoise around our Zodiacs as a quarter of a million King Penguins stand to attention on shore. Large groups of Southern Elephant Seals slumber on the beaches and in the tussock. Unlike the penguins, these giant creatures will barely acknowledge our presence, lying in groups of intertwined bodies, undergoing their annual moult. In addition to the penguins and elephant seals, there are three species of fur seals to be found here and four species of albatross, Wandering, Black-browed, Greyheaded and Light-mantled Sooty. An amazing island, and our last Subantarctic Island visit on this leg of our journey as we head to open seas.



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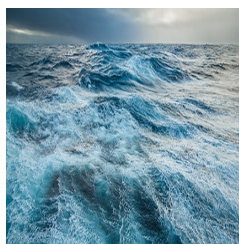
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DAY 7: At Sea - Day 7 to 10

Soaring albatross and petrels circle the vessel as we steam southward through the Southern Ocean. Lectures concentrate on the Antarctic region, and beyond the bow of the ship, drifting icebergs of extraordinary shapes and colour begin to appear. Manoeuvring in close for your first ice photographs, we pass the Antarctic Circle and into the continent's realm of 24-hour daylight. Relax in the ship's bar and catch up with some reading in the library. If you have brought your laptop with you, there will be time to download and edit your just-taken photos.



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DAY 11: Commonwealth Bay & beyond - Day 11 to 17

An authentic expedition into the vast icy desert of East Antarctic, our 'In the Wake of Mawson' voyage channels the spirit and tenacity of its heroic namesake exploring the historic and isolated coastline of Commonwealth Bay where very few have ventured before. Located almost entirely within the Eastern Hemisphere, East Antarctica (or Greater Antarctica) is renowned for the thickness of its ice, up to almost 5 kilometres in some areas, and some of the coldest and driest conditions on the planet, yet is still home to Emperor and Adelie Penguins, seals, seabirds and cetaceans. A celebration of Australia's contribution to Antarctic exploration, our own expedition carries the same thrill of the unknown as we traverse the frozen coastline following in the wake of these great adventurers. Due to the unpredictable nature of ice and weather conditions, a day-by-day itinerary is not possible. The captain and Expedition Leader will assess daily conditions and take advantage of every opportunity to make landings and enjoy Zodiac cruises during the long daylight hours. Our program emphasizes wildlife viewing, key scientific bases and historic sites, as well as the spectacular scenery of the coastal terrain, the glaciers and icebergs of East Antarctica. Whilst specific landings cannot be guaranteed, we hope to visit the following as well as seek out new, perhaps previously unvisited areas:

Commonwealth Bay Our first explorations on the remote East Antarctic coastline will be at Cape Denison, Commonwealth Bay, it is notoriously known as the 'home of the blizzard' due to the strong Katabatic winds that frequently blow here. If a lull in the weather allows we hope to see, and experience, Mawson's Hut - established for the 1911-1914 Australasian Antarctic Expedition - and its environs, which includes the Memorial Cross to expeditioners Ninnis and Mertz who perished during the infamous three man 'Far Eastern Party' sledging trip (which Mawson himself barely survived). Nesting near the hut are substantial numbers of Adelie Penguin and Wilson's Storm-Petrel. Dumont d'Urville, Port-Martin West from Cape Denison is the French Research Base, Dumont d'Urville, which we will visit if permission is granted and ice conditions permit. The base's main area of study is wildlife, notably the Emperor Penguin. In summer, the rocks near the base are also home to an Adelie Penguin rookery, as well as skua, Snow Petrel, Giant Petrel and Cape Petrel. This French base was rebuilt on the current site after a fire destroyed the original research station located at Port Martin, over 60 kilometres east of Dumont d'Urville. We will also attempt to visit this abandoned site. **McKellar Islands** This group of approximately 30 small islands and rocks lie 3 kilometres north of Cape Denison and were discovered by the Australasian Antarctic Expedition under Mawson. We will not land at these islets but there may be good opportunities for wildlife sightings close by. East from Cape Denison we follow the East Antarctic ice edge towards the Mertz Glacier. The Mertz Glacier emerges from the mountains of East Antarctica in King George V land. Extending into the ocean with a floating tongue, this tongue advanced from 1956 to 2010 a distance of 43 kilometres without calving. In 2010 the tongue was impacted by the B9B iceberg causing the Mertz Glacier tongue to calve off an iceberg that was 78 kilometres long.



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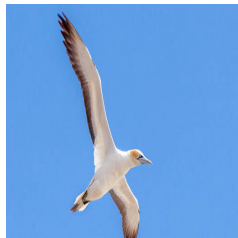
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DAY 18: At Sea - Day 18 to 21

When we depart from the spectacular icebound majesty of Antarctica we will have some quieter time at sea to recover from the extensive daylight hours. Travelling along the Antarctic convergence for part of this, we will remain vigilant for all the sea and birdlife we will no doubt encounter along the way. There will be plenty of time to reflect on your amazing experience, download and edit freshly taken photos, pose questions to our knowledgeable expedition team and recap highlights with fellow passengers and staff. Just remember 'God does not deduct from one's allotted life span time spent sailing,' so relax and enjoy. Take part in a series of lectures designed to prepare you for our visit to the Auckland Islands. Pelagic species abound here as they did en route to Macquarie Island earlier in our voyage. Above all, take the time to rest and enjoy shipboard life after the excitement of the Antarctic.



DAY 22: Auckland Islands - Carnley Harbour

We arrive in Carnley Harbour, once the caldera of the Carnley volcano. The walls of the caldera have been breached on both the eastern and western sides, separating Adams Island to the south. The eastern entrance is navigable for smaller vessels such as ours. The extensive harbour is rich in history and in opportunities. Our activities are totally weather dependent as the wind often funnels down the harbor making anchoring and some landings impossible. We have a number of options including a reasonably difficult scramble to a Shy Albatross colony on South West Cape. For those not able to manage this there will be the option to Zodiac cruise the pristine shores of Adams Island and Western Harbour. If wind and weather prevent us from doing this, other options include a relatively easy walk to an abandoned Coastwatcher's hut and lookout used during the Second World War. If landing on the shores on the north arm of Carnley Harbour where the Grafton was wrecked in 1865, the remains of the vessel and their castaway hut can still be seen. There are two other sites of interest that if we can't land at the above sites we might consider. They are Camp Cove, site of the official Government Castaway depots constructed in the late 1800s and the 'Erlangen' clearing where the German merchant ship of the same name cut firewood on the eve of the Second World War which allowed it to leave New Zealand undetected.



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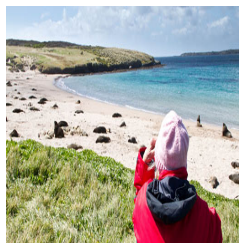
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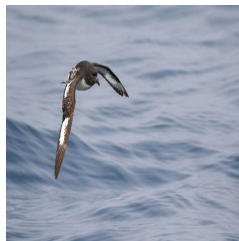
DAY 23: Auckland Islands - Enderby Island

Enderby Island is a wildlife rich island with no equal in the Southern Ocean, considered one of the most beautiful of the Subantarctic Islands. Enderby Island's landscape is a mix of regenerating rata forest – playing host to native songbirds, the Tui and Bellbird, and chatterbox Red-fronted Parakeets – and megaherbs with languorous names; Bulbinella rossii and Anisotome latifolia, and vivid pink and white gentians. The island is home to the rarest sea lion in the world, the New Zealand Sea Lion, which breeds on Sandy Bay beach where we plan to land. As we walk around the island, we will enjoy close encounters with the Yellow-eyed Penguin, the rarest penguin in the world, and the Royal Albatross nesting amongst a hummocked sward of Oreobolus pectinatus and tussock. There is a good chance that we will see the endemic snipe, shag and Auckland Island Flightless Teal.



DAY 24: At Sea

We are at sea en route to the Port of Bluff. We will take the opportunity to recap the many experiences we have had on this expedition. This is also a good opportunity to download and edit any remaining photos while they are fresh in your mind and you have the experience of our expedition team on board for questions. There will also be some good pelagic birding opportunities. Tonight we enjoy a farewell and celebratory dinner with new found friends with time to reflect on a wealth of new experiences.



DAY 25: Invercargill

Early this morning we will arrive in the Port of Bluff. After a final breakfast and completing Custom formalities we bid farewell to our fellow voyagers and take a complimentary coach transfer to either a central city point or to the airport. In case of unexpected delays due to weather and/or port operations we ask you not to book any onward travel until after midday today.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Standard

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Inclusions	1 Night Hotel accommodation with dinner and breakfast in Invercargill Group transfer from hotel to pier 23 nights shipboard accommodation All meals whilst on-board All shore excursions Guiding and lectures by expedition team English-speaking expedition team Group transfer from pier to central city point or airport Invercargill on day of disembarkation Exclusion Airfares to/from embarkation and disembarkation city Visa Fees (if applicable) Travel insurance Beverages (other than coffee and tea) Personal expenses such as laundry, on-board communication (telephone, faxes, email services) Gratuities for the crew
Difficulty Rating	2 (Light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request
Notes	Contact us for more details
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

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SUSTAINABILITY

GUIDANCE FOR VISITORS TO THE ANTARCTIC

RECOMMENDATION XVIII-1, ADOPTED AT THE ANTARCTIC TREATY MEETING, KYOTO, 1994

Activities in the Antarctic are governed by the Antarctic Treaty of 1959 and associated agreements, referred to collectively as the Antarctic Treaty System. The Treaty established Antarctica as a zone of peace and science.

In 1991, the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties adopted the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, which designates the Antarctic as a natural reserve. The Protocol sets out environmental principles, procedures and obligations for the comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment, and its dependent and associated ecosystems. The Consultative Parties have agreed that as far as possible and in accordance with their legal system, the provisions of the Protocol should be applied as appropriate. The Environmental Protocol was ratified in January 1998.

The Environmental Protocol applies to tourism and non-governmental activities, as well as governmental activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area. It is intended to ensure that these activities, do not have adverse impacts on the Antarctic environment, or on its

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scientific and aesthetic values.

This Guidance for Visitors to the Antarctic is intended to ensure that all visitors are aware of, and are therefore able to comply with, the Treaty and the Protocol. Visitors are, of course, bound by national laws and regulations applicable to activities in the Antarctic.

PROTECT ANTARCTIC WILDLIFE

Taking or harmful interference with Antarctic wildlife is prohibited except in accordance with a permit issued by a national authority.

Do not use aircraft, vessels, small boats, or other means of transport in ways that disturb wildlife, either at sea or on land.

Do not feed, touch, or handle birds or seals, or approach or photograph them in ways that cause them to alter their behavior. Special care is needed when animals are breeding or molting.

Do not damage plants, for example by walking, driving, or landing on extensive moss beds or lichen-covered scree slopes.

Do not use guns or explosives. Keep noise to the minimum to avoid frightening wildlife.

Do not bring non-native plants or animals into the Antarctic, such as live poultry, pet dogs and cats, or house plants.

RESPECT PROTECTED AREAS

A variety of areas in the Antarctic have been afforded special protection because of their particular ecological, scientific, historic, or other values. Entry into certain areas may be prohibited except in accordance with a permit issued by an appropriate national authority.

Activities in and near designated Historic Sites and Monuments and certain other areas may be subject to special restrictions.

Know the locations of areas that have been afforded special protection and any restrictions regarding entry and activities that can be carried out in and near them. Observe applicable restrictions.

Do not damage, remove, or destroy Historic Sites or Monuments or any artifacts associated with them.

RESPECT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Do not interfere with scientific research, facilities or equipment.

Obtain permission before visiting Antarctic science and support facilities; reconfirm arrangements 24-72 hours before arrival; and comply with the rules regarding such visits.

Do not interfere with, or remove, scientific equipment or marker posts, and do not disturb experimental study sites, field camps, or supplies.

BE SAFE

Be prepared for severe and changeable weather and ensure that your equipment and clothing meet Antarctic standards. Remember that the Antarctic environment is inhospitable, unpredictable, and potentially dangerous.

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Know your capabilities and the dangers posed by the Antarctic environment, and act accordingly. Plan activities with safety in mind at all times.

Keep a safe distance from all wildlife, both on land and at sea.

Take note of, and act on, the advice and instructions from your leaders; do not stray from your group.

Do not walk onto glaciers or large snow fields without the proper equipment and experience; there is a real danger of falling into hidden crevasses.

Do not expect a rescue service. Self-sufficiency is increased and risks reduced by sound planning, quality equipment, and trained personnel.

Do not enter emergency refuges (except in emergencies). If you use equipment or food from a refuge, inform the nearest research station or national authority once the emergency is over.

Respect any smoking restrictions, particularly around buildings, and take great care to safeguard against the danger of fire. This is a real hazard in the dry environment of Antarctica.

KEEP ANTARCTICA PRISTINE

Antarctica remains relatively pristine, the largest wilderness area on Earth. It has not yet been subjected to large-scale human perturbations. Please keep it that way.

Do not dispose of litter or garbage on land. Open burning is prohibited.

Do not disturb or pollute lakes or streams. Any materials discarded at sea must be disposed of properly.

Do not paint or engrave names or graffiti on rocks or buildings.

Do not collect or take away biological or geological specimens or man-made artifacts as a souvenir, including rocks, bones, eggs, fossils, and parts or contents of buildings.

Do not deface or vandalize buildings or emergency refuges, whether occupied, abandoned, or unoccupied.

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