



Scott & Shackleton's Antarctic - Ross Sea Expedition

Dunedin – Dunedin | 21 nights aboard *Le Soléal* | 26th January to 16 February 2025

From AU\$29,990 per person in a Deluxe Stateroom Deck 3 with Private Balcony

From AU\$31,950 per person in a Prestige Stateroom Deck 4 with Private Balcony

A voyage to the Ross Sea is an epic adventure exploring the least visited, wildest and historically significant destinations Antarctica has to offer. Regarded as the 'heart of Antarctica', it is undoubtedly one of the most pristine and untouched landscapes on Earth, accessible to only the privileged few. The Ross Sea is the largest ocean wilderness left on our planet home to 12 whale species, 5 seal species and the world's largest colonies of Adélie penguins. Located as far south as one can go by sea, the Ross Sea became the launching point for the race to the South Pole during the 'Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration'. Your voyage will follow in the footsteps of the great explorers including James Clark Ross, Robert Falcon Scott and Ernest Shackleton. On route to and from the Ross Sea you will also have the opportunity to discover the prolific and unique flora and fauna of the NZ Subantarctic Islands.



Voyage Highlights:

- Outings and shore visits in zodiac inflatables with a team of experienced naturalist guides.
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Macquarie Island and New Zealand's Subantarctic Islands (Campbell and the Snares islands).
- Visit the Ross Sea, the most pristine piece of ocean on earth.
- Follow in the footsteps of the heroic age of Antarctic exploration and have the opportunity to explore the historic huts of Scott, Shackleton and Borchgrevink.
- The opportunity to see 9 of the world's penguin species.
- Opportunity to view the Ross Ice shelf, the massive Dryglaski Ice Tongue and the phenomenal Scott Coast
- Gain an insight into the history and the diversity of flora and fauna from your expert expedition team.



Scott & Shackleton's Antarctic - Ross Sea Expedition - Itinerary

Day 1. Dunedin, New Zealand. Embarkation.

Days 2-6. Crossing the Southern Ocean and the Subantarctic Islands.

On route to and from the Ross Sea, we plan to explore The New Zealand and Australian Subantarctic Islands. The Subantarctic Islands are among the last unspoilt environments on Earth. Almost half of the world's albatross and penguin species reside here and The Snares Island alone boasts more nesting seabirds than the entire realm of the British Isles. For nature lovers, birders, photographers, and travellers wishing to venture where few have gone before, these UNESCO World Heritage Sites provide a truly privileged glimpse into a unique world.

Days 7-16. The Ross Sea Region.

A voyage to the Ross Sea is a truly unique and epic adventure that requires a flexible itinerary. In the true spirit of an expedition, each day the Captain and Expedition leader will continually update the voyage plan taking into account the weather, sea and ice conditions to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all guests. Whilst the ever-changing nature of the Antarctic environment precludes us from guaranteeing any destination, below are some of the destinations we plan to visit during our time in this remarkable region.

Cape Adare, Antarctica.

Cape Adare is one of the principal sites of early human activity in Antarctica. It is the site of the first documented landing on Antarctica as well as the location of the first Expedition to overwinter on the Antarctic mainland. Cape Adare is also the site of the largest Adélie penguin rookery in the world, comprising of approximately 220,000 breeding pairs. If time and weather permit, you will have the opportunity to view the historic site along with the resident wildlife.

Cape Evans, Ross Island, Antarctica.

Scott's 1911 Terra Nova Hut is the largest historic building in Antarctica. Used in the 1910 to 1913 British Antarctic Expedition, it served as the base for extensive scientific research and surveys as well as Scott's fatal journey to the South Pole. It was this expedition that gave rise to some of the most inspirational and harrowing stories associated with polar history. Much of Scott's equipment is well preserved and entering the hut provides a window into the Heroic age of Antarctic exploration. If time and weather permit, you will have the opportunity to view the historic hut along with the resident wildlife.

Cape Royds, Ross Island, Antarctica.

Shackleton's hut at Cape Royds was constructed during the British Antarctic Nimrod Expedition in 1907-1909, the third

British expedition to the Ross Sea region within 10 years. Since being invalided home with scurvy in 1903 from Robert Falcon Scott's Discovery expedition, Shackleton was fixated on getting back to the ice. In late 1908 Shackleton led a party of four in an attempt to be the first to reach the Geographic South Pole. After man-hauling sleds for two and a half months, and less than 97 nautical miles from the Pole, he made a decision considered the finest in early polar history – to turn for home. If time and weather permit, you will have the opportunity to view the historic hut along with the resident wildlife.

Cape Hallett, Antarctica.

Cape Hallett was the site of a joint scientific base between the United States and New Zealand until 1964, when a fire destroyed the main scientific laboratory, for the next nine years it was used as a summer only base until being completely abandoned in 1973. The Admiralty range, rising over 4,000 metres from the sea with its giant glaciers provides a spectacular backdrop to the large Adélie penguin colony that has reclaimed the site. It is also a regular haul out for Weddell seals. If time and weather permit, you will have the opportunity to land ashore and view the historic site along with the resident wildlife.

Terra Nova Bay, Antarctica.

First Discovered by Scott during his 1901-1904 Discovery Expedition, the Bay was named after one of the relief ships for the expedition. Today, the Italian Zucchelli Station and Jang Bogo Station of South Korea are located at the Northern end of the bay. To the South of the Bay lies the massive Dryglaski Ice Tongue, extending over 70 kilometres into the Ross Sea from the David Glacier. If time and weather permit, you will have the opportunity to explore the spectacular coastal environments from our fleet of Zodiacs®.

Balleney Islands, Antarctica.

The Balleney Islands are heavily glaciated and have received few human visitors since their discovery in 1839. Their isolated location within the rich waters of the Southern Ocean has resulted in a species diversity rivalling the entire Ross Sea region. Humpback, fin and minke whales are regular visitors to the rich feeding grounds along with Crabeater, Weddell, Elephant and leopard seals. Several of the islands are home to significant colonies of Adélie and Chinstrap penguins. If time and weather permit, you will have the opportunity to explore the spectacular coastal environments and view the prolific wildlife from our fleet of Zodiacs®.

Days 17-21. Crossing the Southern Ocean and the Subantarctic Islands (See days 2-6)

Day 22. Dunedin, New Zealand. Disembarkation.

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