

RETURN TO MAWSON'S HUT

3rd January 2012 - Antarctic Voyage



Departing 3 January 2012 18 night Mawson's Antarctica - Commonwealth Bay	
Day 1	Hobart
Day 2-6	At sea
Day 7-11	Commonwealth Bay Region
Day 12-13	At sea
Day 14-15	Macquarie Island
Day 16	At sea
Day 17	Auckland Islands
Day 18	Snares Island
Day 19	Bluff (Invercargill), New Zealand

Expedition Fares			
Category	Type	Brochure Fare	Special SA Museum Fare
B	Stateroom	\$19,365	\$16,460
A	Stateroom	\$22,485	\$19,110
JS	Junior Suite	\$26,710	\$22,705
DS	Deluxe Suite	\$29,250	\$24,860
BS	Balcony Suite	\$34,915	\$29,680
OS	Owner's Suite	\$40,555	\$34,470

Fares are per person, twin share in Australian Dollars. Mother nature dictates our course, and itineraries are therefore subject to change. Antarctica medical insurance is mandatory, and a medical questionnaire will need to be completed by a medical practitioner.



ORIONTM
EXPEDITION CRUISES

To make a booking or to request our 2011 brochure call 1300 361 012 or visit www.orionexpeditions.com, please quote '**South Australian Museum**' to receive the following special offer. Book by 31 July 2010 and receive 15% savings and the first ever bound edition of Mawson's *The Adélie Blizzard* newspaper

There was only ever one hand-typed copy of each edition of The Adélie Blizzard newspaper - and it circulated hand to hand in the Hut in the long winter of 1913. Never before published, this bound volume of facsimiles is a centenary project and will be of great interest to collectors. Intriguingly, Mawson's penciled changes to the text can be seen correcting his colleagues.

SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON'S CENTENARY



In association with

MAWSON'S HUTS FOUNDATION

From the Discovery Museum, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia
Geographical Society of The Commonwealth of Australia



Hobart - embark

A scenic start to our southern expedition, Hobart is very much a city of the sea, with views of the Derwent estuary appearing around every corner. Historic 19th century waterfront warehouses remain, still bordering the commercial fishing harbour, though today it is easier to feast on seafood at one of the restaurants they now house.

Hobart is the finishing line for the famed blue water Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race and its deep harbour precinct once bustled with whalers. Your voyage begins in Hobart. Our initial days at sea are busy with lectures and safety instructions in preparation for our expedition. Our resident botanists and ornithologists will be ever watchful for pelagic birdlife escorting *Orion* as she heads south, as well as sea life such as dolphins and whales frolicking within sight of *Orion's* expansive outdoor decks.

Commonwealth Bay Region

On 8 January 1912, Dr Douglas Mawson landed in the Antarctic continent after a journey from Hobart that took 36 days aboard the *Aurora*, a ship of just 612 tons. During these voyages to the Antarctic continent, *Orion* will be positioned in and around Commonwealth Bay on the Adélie coast of Antarctica. Your expedition team will lead a variety of opportunistic landings which may include sites at Cape Denison, Port Martin and Dumont d'Urville. In each instance landings ashore and Zodiac explorations are wholly subject to prevailing weather conditions, in an area Mawson described as "the home of the blizzard".

Cape Denison, Antarctica

Our expedition leaders Don and Margie McIntyre have called Cape Denison home, having spent more time there than any other person alive today. It is the windiest place on the face of the earth and is surrounded by spectacular ice cliffs. The area is home to 60,000 Adélie Penguins, Snow Petrels, Giant Petrels, Wilson's Storm-petrels and Cape Pigeons. Weddell, Leopard and Elephant seals may be seen stretched out on the ice. Cape Denison is the site of Dr Douglas Mawson's hut from the historic 1911-14 expedition. This is one of the Antarctic's least visited sites and, as the first Australian scientific base on the Antarctic, is of great historical significance and the subject of an ongoing multi-million dollar preservation program. Apart from the main living hut and workshop, there is the absolute magnetic hut, the magnetograph house, the transit hut and the memorial cross erected in memory of Ninnis and Mertz who died tragically in December 1912 and January 1912 respectively. The main hut is surrounded by historic debris and artefacts including clothing, shoes, food crates, sleds, ropes and kerosene tins. An Australian Antarctic Division guide will accompany guests to Mawson's Hut.

Port Martin, Antarctica

Enroute to Port Martin, *Orion* maneuvers through a large gallery of up to 100 grounded icebergs of various sizes, making it possible for close proximity views and photography. Port Martin is the former site of the French Antarctic base. Built in 1950 by the third French expedition to Terre Adélie, the region was so named by Dumont d'Urville for his wife. The area is in the small French Antarctic claim, sandwiched between the two Australian claims. The base was abandoned after it was partially destroyed by fire on the night of 24 January 1952. The site is scattered with artefacts and has an Adélie Penguin rookery, nesting McCormack Skuas, a spectacular backdrop of ice cliffs and a snow ramp to the Antarctic Plateau.

Dumont d'Urville, Antarctica

The French scientific base at Dumont d'Urville is on Petrels Island, located at the south-eastern end of the Geologie Archipelago. The base is named for French explorer Jules- Sebastien-Cesar Dumont d'Urville and was built in 1956 to replace the base at Port Martin some 100km to the east. The spectacular area is an important centre for the study of the rich local wildlife, including seals, petrels and Penguins – the Adélie Penguin also being named after Dumont d'Urville's wife. Emperor Penguins may be observed on some ice-floes behind the controversial and now unused airstrip (the French destroyed some Adélie Penguin rookeries to build it). Adélie Penguins abound around the base – in fact right up to the front door of most buildings!

Macquarie Island

Often described as one of the 'wonder spots' of the world, the sub-Antarctic island of Macquarie has been said to rival South Georgia in its magnificence, scenic diversity and prolific wildlife. Only one thousand people are permitted to visit. Between 1911

and 1914, the island became a base for the Australasian Antarctic Expedition under Sir Douglas Mawson. They also overcame months of failures with equipment and masts by eventually establishing the first Antarctic wireless radio connection (linked to Hobart, via Macquarie Island). Mawson was influential in having Macquarie Island declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1933. Given World Heritage status in 1977, Macquarie now operates a full-time manned station where biological and meteorological research is conducted. The station, located on the isthmus at Buckles Bay, is where we will collect the Tasmanian Parks & Wildlife rangers who will be our guides. The Zodiacs will traverse breakwaters of giant kelp before reaching rocky beaches where landing conditions can best be described as 'wet and challenging'. Once ashore you'll find that the bay, with its rugged backdrop of mountains and tussock covered headlands, is home to 850,000 Royal Penguins, 150,000 breeding pairs of King Penguins as well as Rock Hopper Penguins, Gentoo Penguins and Elephant Seals. This profusion of wildlife wasn't always so protected, the rusting remains of machinery used by whalers being stark reminders of the exploitation which took place on the island during its early history. Relax and reflect on our day at sea. Download and recharge your digital camera in preparation for our days ahead. The expedition team will continue their series of presentations and lectures on the wildlife and history of these beautiful islands and their prolific inhabitants.

Auckland Islands

Orion's guests will cruise in Zodiacs in Sandy Bay on Enderby Island at the northern end of Auckland Islands to view a large Hooker Sea Lion colony with pups all jostling for position. If we are fortunate, we may see the rare Yellow-Eyed Penguin as they move to and from their nests in the forests beyond the beach. Only five hundred visitors are permitted on these islands per year.

Snares Island

Two small rocky islands, North East and Broughton, comprise the Snares, Islands the closest sub-Antarctic islands to New Zealand. The islands are covered with heavy tussock grass and wind-beaten forests of tree daisies. Weather permitting, we'll launch our Zodiacs for an exploration of the sheltered eastern coastline, as the island's wildlife protection program precludes landings. The Snares are home to huge numbers of breeding birds; 99 recorded species including albatross, Antarctic Terns and Snares Crested Penguin.

Bluff, (Invercargill) - disembark

The largest urban centre in New Zealand's Southland is Invercargill, a city of 49,000 people. Visitors come to admire the elegant Victorian and Edwardian buildings, gardens and landscaped parks. The fishing port of Bluff is a half hour drive south and is home to the famous Bluff oyster and a lively annual seafood festival. Transfers operate between Bluff and Invercargill Airport.

EXPEDITION LEADERS



Don and Margie McIntyre

Don and Margie McIntyre aren't your average middle-aged married couple. For the past 20 years or more, the pursuit of the ultimate adventure has been their full-time occupation. Known as Australia's "Antarctic couple", Don and Margie spent a year living together alone living at the windiest place on earth, Commonwealth Bay, Antarctica.

Camped in their small survival hut measuring 2.4m by 3.6m, alone and isolated with only each other for company they withstood temperatures of up to minus 32 degrees Celsius, wind gusts of 150 knots and total darkness for three months during winter.

Margie had only seen snow twice before she agreed to spend a year in Antarctica with her husband, Don, who is from Adelaide. Don and Margie McIntyre are two sides of a coin: they have their differences but together they make a formidable team.

Their year in Antarctica was a study in grit and determination. It was a grand adventure in the grandest of places, a triumph of teamwork, organisation and the determination to fulfil a shared dream.

GUEST LECTURER



Professor Suzanne Miller

Suzanne Miller was appointed as Director of the South Australian Museum in 2007. Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, she studied Geology Honours at the University of St Andrews before completing her PhD in Marine Geology at Imperial College, University of London. She spent 12 years with National Museums Scotland, latterly as Keeper of Natural Sciences.

She spent time as a researcher in BBC science communications; as a post-doctoral Research Associate in Environmental Chemistry at the Universities of Lancaster and Oxford; as a Petroleum Geochemist at the Institute of Offshore Engineering, Orkney; and as a metamorphic petrologist with the British Antarctic Survey.

Prof Miller is currently Affiliate Professor in Earth & Environmental Sciences at the University of Adelaide and Deputy Chair of The Premier's Climate Change Council. She is also a member of the national Research Infrastructure Council, the Australian e-research Infrastructure Council and the National Moveable Cultural Heritage Committee.

ABOUT ORION

Orion is a purpose-built luxury expedition ship with the highest class of ice-strengthened hull possible before an ice breaker. This means that as a vessel she is able to offer superior comfort with her streamlined hull and oversized retractable stabilisers, compared to traditional icebreakers with rounded hulls. Although custom designed for expedition cruising, Orion has exceptional service with just 50 couples all cared for in comfort by a crew of 75. All suites and staterooms offer ocean views, room to relax during the day and a choice of either queen or twin bed sleeping arrangements. All have well appointed marble bathrooms, ample storage space, complimentary 24 hour room service, a flat screen TV and DVD/ CD player. From gourmet dinner menus to pampering at the beauty salon, you will rediscover your capacity for relaxation and indulgence