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## Antarctica

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## Antarctica

### Abstract

Suggested resources for the Penn Alumni Travel excursion to Antarctica. See the Library Guide for this bibliography [here](#).

### Keywords

antarctica, bibliography, penn, alumni, travel, readings, guidebooks

### Comments

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## Alumni Travel Reading List

### **Antarctica**

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Antarctica. The Ice. South. One of the most beautiful, dangerous, fascinating, pristine places in the world. Humans have only had a tenuous foothold on the frozen continent for about a century. First came the explorers. Some survived to tell the tale, some did not. One famously and tragically told his tale but he (and his two companions) didn't make it out alive. We only know their final footfalls from the journal where he said his farewell, laid down the pen, and went still in the cold for the last time.

Then came the whalers and fishermen, who still troll in small numbers against unenforceable international law.

Then came the scientists, who accompanied explorers from the beginning, but they now dominate the population as it ebbs and flows from the bustle of the austral summer to the total darkness of the polar winter. A few explorers dot the landscape each season - climbing Mount Vinson, scaling lesser peaks, traversing glacial valleys or challenging the Ice on skis. There are few notable firsts left to claim, but this doesn't stop the obsessed few from pitting themselves against the unforgiving continent year after year.

And now comes a new contingent: you - the Antarctic tourist. Despite the risks, something compels each visitor to make the journey. Whether a scientist, base mechanic, ship's crew, film maker, climber or tourist, the Antarctic has plenty to satisfy the curious mind: geography, hydrology, glaciology, global climate patterns, neutrino detection, austral lights, katabatic winds, ancient entombed seas, seals, penguins, petrels, whales, stories of survival, death, tragedy, triumph, discovery, whimsy, experimentation, growing environmental threats, exotic international legal structures, and yes – even culture. Here's a taste.

## Suggested Resources

### *General Information*

Rubin, Jeff. *Antarctica: a Lonely Planet Travel Survival*. Lonely Planet, 1996.

Thorough and entertaining reading across all topics. If you read only one thing, this is a worthy candidate. A new edition was published in 2012, but the Library has a copy of the 1996 edition.

Lowen, James. *Antarctic Wildlife*. Wild Guides, 2010.

Complete enough to be useful, not too big to bring, and brought to you by the Princeton University Press (trusted by professional and amateur naturalists far and wide).

*Encounters at the End of the World*. Discovery Communications, 2007.

A spine-tingler. Werner Herzog applies his askew view to the people and places of the austral summer. Fascinating human portraits of the researchers and the staff who support them –or as Herzog calls them: “professional dreamers.” Stunning cinematography. Do not miss this one.

### *Exploration*

The race to the South Pole begat some of the most compelling exploration stories in history. The duel between the British Scott and the Norwegian Amundsen’s expeditions is required Antarctic reading, as is the story of Shackleton’s Endurance expedition.

Scott and Amundsen’s tale has been spun as a classic in management and leadership circles, but rest assured there is plenty to fascinate anyone interested in the ins and outs of expedition planning and execution on the grandest possible scale (aside from space).

Shackleton’s Endurance odyssey is a classic tale of extreme survival, leadership, despair, and triumph against all odds. Even after two very successful previous expeditions (often forgotten in the shuffle), nothing could have prepared him and his crew for what happened.

Shackleton, Ernest. *South: The Story of Shackleton's 1914-1917 Expedition*. Macmillan, 1920.

You can't get any closer than this first-hand account.

Hurley, Frank. *South with Endurance: Shackleton's Antarctic Expedition 1914-1917: The Photographs of Frank Hurley*. Simon & Schuster, 2001.

Frank Hurley created an incredible photographic record of the expedition's demise, despair, and ultimate triumph. The images are absolutely captivating. Paging through this stunning, large-format book makes one wonder what were on the plates that sank with the ship.

*The Endurance*. Columbia TriStar Home Entertainment, 2003.

"In August, 1914, Sir Ernest Shackleton, renowned explorer set sail with 27 men on his ship *The Endurance*. His plan was to be the first expedition to cross the Antarctic continent. Marooned on four feet of ice, in over 8,000 feet of water, Shackleton and his crew survived some 635 days and nights, without proper shelter or rations, enduring the harshest conditions imaginable." A solid documentary.

Huntford, Roland. *The Last Place on Earth*. Modern Library, 1979.

A fascinating, in-depth analysis of the dueling Roald Amundsen / Robert Scott South Polar expeditions. One team made it to the Pole first, and one didn't make it out alive. The team composition, supplies, strategies and human dynamics are examined as the story unfolds in a page-turner of a book.

Cherry-Garrard, Apsley. *The Worst Journey in the World*. Carroll & Graf, 1997.

If you find yourself hooked on all things Antarctic exploration, this is the next classic to read after the requisite Shackleton and Amundson/Scott tales. Cherry-Garrard accompanied Scott on the Terra Nova Expedition, but had a different kind of awful experience studying penguins at Cape Crozier - in 40 degree below zero weather, in total darkness. He survived to tell this tale.

Scott, Robert Falcon. *Scott's Last Expedition: The Journals*. Methuen, 1983.

Scott's first-hand account of the ill-fated Terra Nova Expedition.

### *Additional Recommendations*

Hooper, Meredith. *The Ferocious Summer: Adélie Penguins and the Warming of Antarctica*. Greystone Books, 2008.

A great read on a single, incredibly adorable species at peril in the complex Antarctic ecological web. It is not only timely, but it also provides quirky insights into the realities of running a long-term research project on The Ice.

LIMA: Landsat Image Mosaic of Antarctica. (NASA, USGS, BAS, NSF):  
<http://lima.nasa.gov/>

Get the lay of the land in extremely high definition imagery. Do not miss the McMurdo Flying Tour. The mosaic was compiled using imagery between 199 and 2003 but it's still very much worth a gawk.

Guidelines for Visitors to the Antarctic from IAATO: <http://iaato.org/visitory-guidelines>

If a tour operator is not a member, their expedition is the equivalent of a gypsy cab ride around the most dangerous place on earth. Heed these guidelines at all times. The site also contains a wealth of news, fact sheets, statistics, and many things you haven't even begun to consider. A rabbit hole, in the best possible sense.

#### Antarctic Treaty

If questions like these have crossed your mind: Will I be in a particular country or no particular country, do I need a passport on land, can I have my passport stamped, are claims made and/or recognized?

You can Wiki that: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antarctic\\_Treaty\\_System](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antarctic_Treaty_System)

Or you can go to the home of the Antarctic Treaty System for more:  
<http://www.ats.aq>

"Antarctica shall be used for peaceful purposes only (Art. I)

Freedom of scientific investigation in Antarctica and cooperation toward that end ... shall continue (Art. II).

Scientific observations and results from Antarctica shall be exchanged and made freely available (Art. III)."