

# APEX

TRAVELLER

WINTER  
2020

## POLAR PIONEER

SIR ERNEST HENRY SHACKLETON  
INTERVIEW ON THE 100TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF HIS LAST  
EXPEDITION & DEATH

TOP 7  
REASONS  
TO VISIT THE  
**SPIRITUAL**  
ANTARCTIC  
CONTINENT

EMBARK ON A  
PHOTOGRAPHIC  
**PATAGONIAN**  
PILGRIMAGE

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PHOTOGRAPHY: BRENDA VAN SOEK, SIGGY NOWAK, DEBEE OVEX, VARGA JONES

EDITOR SHARON ANN ROWLAND COVERPAGE PHOTOGRAPHER LILKAR EDITORIAL OFFICE GPO BOX 999, BRISBANE, QLD 4001, AUSTRALIA  
PHONE +61 3878 3313 EMAIL [ASKAPEXTRAVELLER@GETALIFE.COM.AU](mailto:ASKAPEXTRAVELLER@GETALIFE.COM.AU) WEBSITE [APEXTRAVELLER.COM.AU](http://APEXTRAVELLER.COM.AU) INSTAGRAM @APEXTRAVELLER  
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PRICE IN AUSTRALIA, \$9.95; IN NEW ZEALAND, NZ \$10.95; DIGITAL EDITION, \$3.95. VOL 20 ISSUE 2 ISSN 1034-8001.



Cape Royds Hut  
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Antarctic Expedition

# POLAR PIONEER

## AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH SIR ERNEST HENRY SHACKLETON ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS LAST EXPEDITION & DEATH

WORDS SHARON ROWLAND PHOTOGRAPHY VARGA JONES

**S**hackleton was, a pioneer antarctic explorer associated with four expeditions. In particular, the ill fated 1914-1918 Imperial Trans Antarctic Voyage on the Endurance, is still celebrated today for the exceptional leadership of his crew under duress. The Endurance Expedition is seen as an inspirational tale of both survival and perseverance.

**APEX TRAVELLER MAGAZINE:**  
Good Evening Sir Shackleton and welcome.

**SS:**  
Thank you, it is good to be here... again.

**ATM:**  
Let us begin with you sharing details of your first Antarctic Expedition on the Discovery with our readers?

**SS:**  
I joined Captain Scott on the 1901-1904 British National Antarctic Expedition in the position of Third Lieutenant. Alas, due to ill health, I returned early on a supply ship in March of 1903.

**ATM:**  
Is there a memorable experience from the Discovery Expedition that stood out from all others?

**SS:**  
Most definitely. It was taking part in the sledge journey over the Ross Ice Shelf—we reached the 82° 16' 33" S latitude, a great personal milestone!

**ATM:**  
You returned to Antarctica in January of 1908, this time as the leader of the 1907-1909 British Antarctic Expedition on the Nimrod. Is this correct?

**SS:**  
Indeed, there were three moments I would like to share. The first, when my sledging party reached within 97 nautical miles of the South Pole—a great feat. The second, again a sledging party, this time with T.W. Edgeworth David at its helm, reached the area of the south magnetic pole.

**ATM:**  
That was quite the accomplishment in 1909.

**SS:**  
Thank you. We were also the first expedition to ascend Mount Erebus.

**ATM:**  
I understand that, on your return home, you were knighted by King Edward VII for distinguished personal service to the Monarch of the Commonwealth realm.

**SS:**  
Indeed, I am a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order due to our claim of the Antarctic Victoria Land Plateau for the crown.

**ATM:**  
Your third Antarctic Expedition on the Endurance is, of course, the most well-known. What went wrong?

**SS:**  
The 1914-1916 British Imperial Trans Antarctic Expedition on the Endurance. Well, we left England in the August of 1914, the expedition once again under my leadership. Our plan was to cross the Weddell Sea to McMurdo Sound via the South Pole.

Unfortunately, the ship became trapped in ice off the Caird coast and drifted for almost ten months. When the Endurance was crushed by the pack ice, we were forced to move onto ice floes.

Finally escaping to Elephant Island after five months afloat on the floes. I then sailed to South Georgia in a whale boat with five others from the crew, an 800 mile journey in dangerous waters. It was from South Georgia that we initiated our relief expedition for the remaining crew stranded on Elephant Island.

**ATM:**  
How long did it take to rescue your entire crew and team?

**SS:**  
Following the initial sixteen day journey across a treacherous stretch of ocean, I repeated the voyage four more times over a four month duration.

**ATM:**  
Did you lose anyone?

**SS:**  
I am proud to say, **NOT ONE MAN!**

**ATM:**  
Following your British Army service in World War I, you attempted a fourth and final expedition, the Shackleton-Rowett Antarctic Expedition on the Quest. What was your objective?

**SS:**  
Our goal was to circumnavigate the Antarctic Continent. We left England on the 16th of September 1921 for Rio de Janeiro. It was there that I... I had a mild heart attack. I refused a formal

examination, and we continued to sail south, arriving at South Georgia in early January 1922. The next morning at 2:50am I suffered my second, and of course... fatal heart attack.

**ATM:**  
How would you rank yourself next to other great Polar Explorers like Amundsen and Scott?

**SS:**  
Allow me to quote an old friend, Antarctic Explorer and Geologist, Sir Raymond Priestly,

*"For scientific discovery give me Scott; for speed and efficiency of travel give me Amundsen; but when disaster strikes and all hope is gone, get down on your knees and pray for Shackleton."*

**ATM:**  
An exclusive 100 Year Anniversary Antarctic Expedition has been organized in your honour. It will follow your fourth expeditions itinerary to the letter. Thank you for showing us how resilient the human spirit can truly be Sir Shackleton.

**SS:**  
My pleasure... let us hope that the planned 100 Year Anniversary Expedition team succeed in their endeavours and reach the South Pole without loss of man, or ship! 🍷



PHOTOGRAPHY THIBAUD REMOND



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# TOP 7 REASONS TO VISIT ANTARCTICA THE SPIRITUAL CONTINENT

WORDS SHARON ROWLAND PHOTOGRAPHY PARICHART MUNSGOOL

## #1 Sensational Land & Marine Wildlife

Antarctica is home to some of the most endangered wildlife on Earth. Given the continent's protected status, you will be able to see, and get up close to, animals you will not find anywhere else on the planet.

## #2 Unique Activities

If you like to challenge yourself, then take the Polar Plunge or attempt Trail-less Skiing, a spot of Polar Kayaking, Arctic Camping or just lay back and sunbathe with the Seals.

## #3 The Remoteness of the Continent

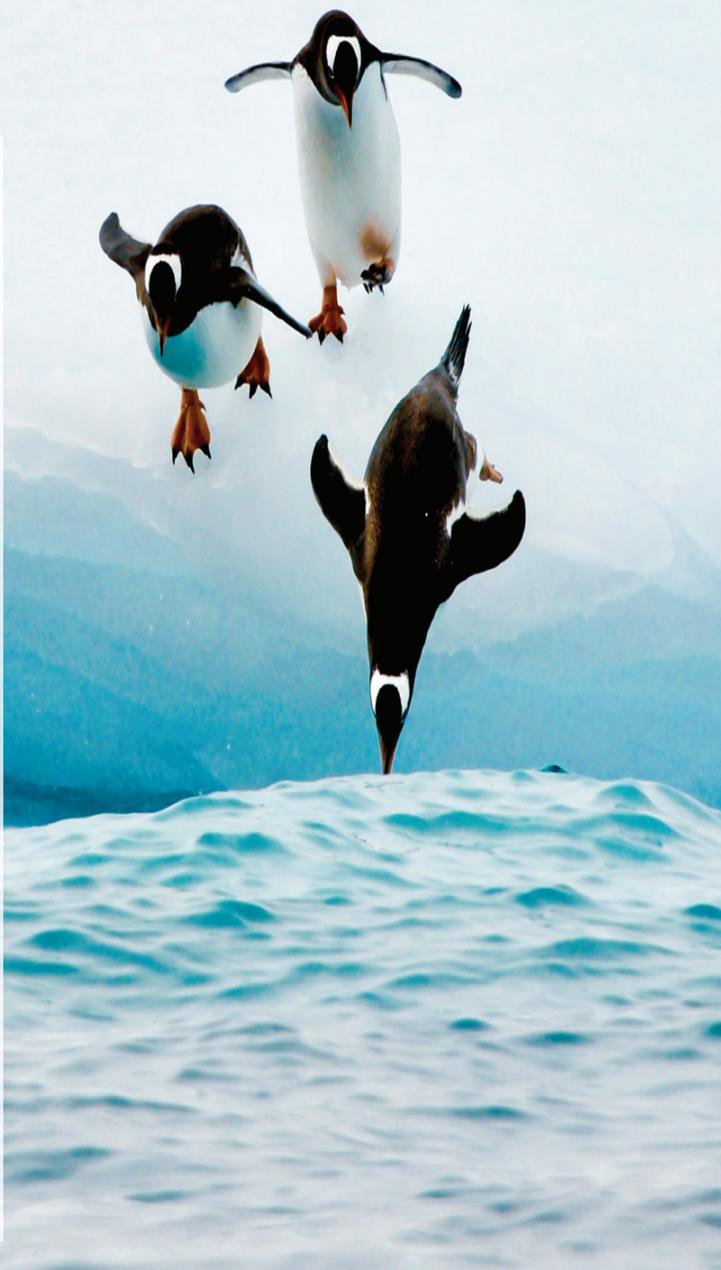
Antarctica has a cathartic quality due to its vast open spaces, its cleansing silence, majestic icebergs and untouched landscape. A place to get back to basics, a place of peace.

## #4 Educational Lectures by Regional Experts

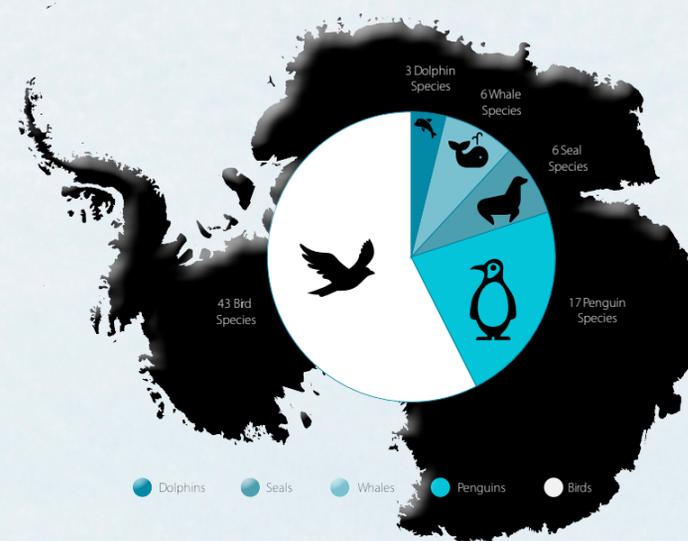
Onboard expedition team specialists, that live and breathe Antarctica will quench your thirst for the continent's rich history of polar exploration, politics, geology, photography, flora and fauna with fascinating lectures and briefings to travellers.

## #5 Unforgettable Nature & Photography

The images you capture in the Antarctic will be unlike any you have taken previously. The light, surreal landscapes and varied species of wildlife and vegetation, elevate each photograph to a postcard quality.



Antarctica is unique, an unparalleled, impressive and at times, humbling land of extremes that only the most disciplined and adaptive of travellers can handle — IS THIS YOU?



## #6 Antarctic History

Antarctica has a rich legacy of heroic exploration and adventure. Travellers to the spiritual continent will discover narratives of larger-than-life polar explorers, the likes of Scott, Amundsen, Shackleton and Hillary.

## #7 Epic Glaciers & Icebergs

The Antarctic continent is full of glaciers, approximately 500—most unnamed. The largest being the Lambert Fisher Glacier, whose circumference measures approximately 400 kilometres. Icebergs come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and colours. Some as tall as multi-story buildings, others with crevasses more than a hundred feet deep, a perennial resting place or form of transportation for the continent's active wildlife. These floating monoliths sculpted by frigid winds and waves are mesmerising prisms of cerulean ice.

# CHILL OUT IN ANTARCTICA BUT BE HOME IN TIME FOR TEA

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# PATAGONIAN PHOTOGRAPHIC PILGRIMAGE

WORDS SHARON ROWLAND PHOTOGRAPHY BRENDAN VAN SON

**T**ravellers to the Patagonian region attach a spiritual reason to their journey, an urgency for spiritual awakening or contact with something 'other'. This self-guided pilgrimage prioritises hiking over other forms of transport as certain locations and spaces are only accessible on foot.

## Stop 1 — Lanín National Park

Lanín National Park was established in 1937, and is the home to the famous Road of the Seven Lakes and picturesque native Araucaria trees, once the main food source of the Mapuche people of this Argentine region. Red deer's and wild boars are often spotted and encountered on this 3 day trail between Laguna Verde and Puerto Arturo. This 40km hike graded as easy with spectacular photographic opportunities at the Portezuelo Waterfall, Achen Niyeu Volcano and Lolog Lake.

## Stop 2 — Nahuel Huapi National Park

Nahuel Huapi was the first Patagonian national park and one of the region's main attractions. It is the home of a local indigenous guru named, Visón, who holds a daily meditative prayer session. Travellers are welcome to attend as they take on this 7 day trek between Colonia Suiza and Pampa Linda over terrain graded intermediate, and dramatic photographic opportunities at Bariloche, Pampa Linda and Cerro Tronador.

## Stop 3 — Los Glaciares National Park

The Perito Moreno advancing glacier calls the Los Glaciares National Park and World Heritage Site home, but it is not alone. There are 47 glaciers within this national park, which makes it the number one destination for most visitors to this region. You will need to prepare for this fifteen day three mountain climb graded as intensive with rewarding photographic opportunities at Chorillo del Salto, Cerro Solo, Aguja de la S and Guillaumet.

## Stop 4 — Torres del Paine National Park

The Torres del Paine National Park is a biosphere reserve and often described as the most untouched, remote and natural inhabited place on Earth. A 5-day hike between Torres del Paine and El Chaltén is graded as intermediate with impressive photographic opportunities at Torres del Paine, Salto Grande waterfall and Glacier.

## Stop 5 — Tierra del Fuego National Park

The Tierra del Fuego National Park was established in 1960 to protect the southernmost Patagonian woods that border the Beagle Channel. Its stunning landscape has deep valleys, lakes and rivers divided by high mountain ridges. An intensive 6-day hike and climb on the Sierra de Navarino Circuit graded as advanced has spectacular photographic opportunities at Dientes de Navarino, including views to Cordillera Darwin and Ushuaia. 🍷



Torres del Paine

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1955

1958

1962

1977

1981

1985



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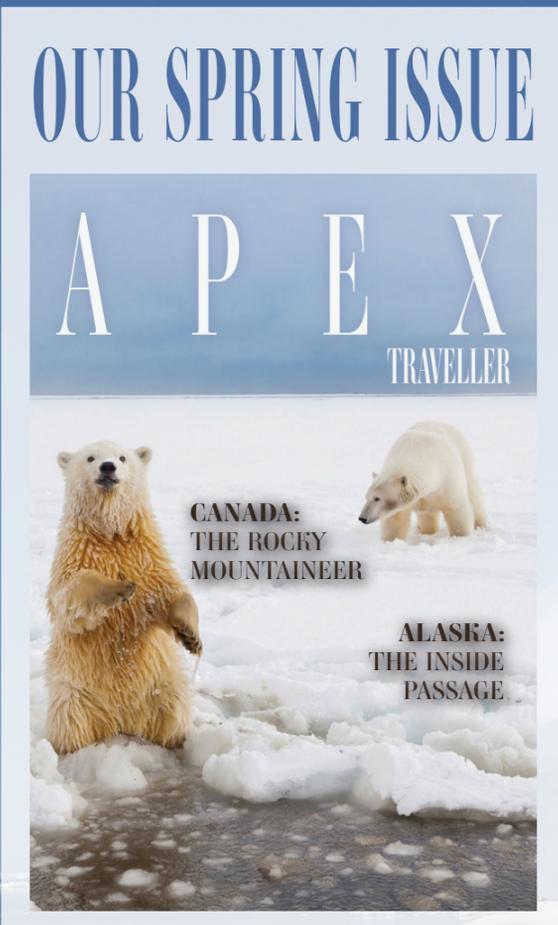
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