



**THE EXPEDITION
2010**



ELYSIUM Shackleton´s Antarctic Visual Epic

Rates and Date

12 Feb 2010	ELYSIUM Shackleton´s Antarctic Visual Epic » M/V Professor Molchanov	Triple standard cabin	9880 EUR
02 Mar 2010		Twin standard cabin	11880 EUR
		Twin private cabin	12880 EUR
		Superior cabin	13880 EUR
		Suite	15880 EUR
		Dive Package	1080 EUR
		Pre-cruise Hotel Package	180 EUR

Rates include

meals, coffee, tea and bottled water, landings, lectures, guides, sponsored expedition gear, official expedition jacket and fleece, reference primer and one copy Elysium limited edition.

Pre-cruise package includes hotelnight, dinner and drinks the night prior to departure.

Dive package includes all diving under guidance by Polar Dive Masters. Tanks, weights and compressor is provided. Divers need to bring their own personal dive equipment.

Rates do not include

Flights, transfers, hotel accommodation, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, mandatory travel-cancellation-, and medical insurances.

M/V Professor Molchanov

A modern, ice-strengthened research vessel, built in Finland for the Russian Academy of Science. The ship has been converted for passenger use and are ideally suited to expedition cruising in polar areas. It complies with the highest international safety and environmental regulations, as well as the Arctic and Antarctic shipping guidelines. The ship carries a full complement of Zodiac crafts, for both cruising and landing ashore. Usually on our voyages the Chef will organize a Polar barbecue on deck. Surrounded by an impressive landscape and accompanied by your fellow-travellers, staff members and the Russian crew members, this event is one to remember.



Cabins

The passengers are accommodated in twin or superior cabins. All cabins are 'outside' and most cabins have private facilities. All cabins have a sofa, desk, chair and windows/portholes that open.

Superior cabins 407, 409 and 420 have a double bed ensuite and one sofa bed, VCR and monitor, refrigerator, coffee and tea maker, and windows. Twin with private facilities have one porthole, one upper and one lower berth and a bathroom with shower and toilet.



Dive Operation

Because the Polar expedition vessels are not specifically built for diving, we have designed a special Dive Container that we bring on board for our dive expeditions. This provides comfortable storing space in boxes for your gear, and a heating system to dry your suit and BC. No hassle to bring your suits and gear into your cabin or inside the ship.

The dive operations, managed by an expert team, relies on more than 15 years of experiences in Polar diving. We have planned and led many field trips to the polar areas, and were the first to lead diving expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctica.

Our knowledge and experiences of the techniques, the gear, the logistics and the polar regions enables us to manage a serious and safe dive operation with a high quality dive product. The dive operation on board is organized by polar dive guides who have experienced many extreme situations in the field and who are trained to search out the best opportunities for diving, taking into account the unpredictable weather and ice conditions. The main language of the dive operation will be in English.



Public Areas and Bridge Visits

The public areas include a dining room which also act as lecture room. There is a cosy bar with reference books and fresh coffee and tea available at all times. The doctor can be visited in the assigned doctors-cabin. The vessel is equipped with a sauna that can hold up to five passengers. The sauna is normally open throughout the day on a self-use basis and not supervised. Passengers use of the facility is of their own volition and at their own risk.

The best viewing places on board for spotting wildlife are the bridge and the open-deck areas. As often as maritime regulations and weather conditions allow, the Bridge is open for visits. This is an excellent place to watch ship operations and maintain a lookout for wildlife. To enable our officers to navigate the ship, we ask that passengers stay clear of the working areas and do not eat or drink.



Electrical Current

The electrical supply on board is 220 volts, 50 hertz. The electrical outlet sockets are the standard European two round pin system. Passengers coming from countries with a different system will need to bring a suitable adapter.

Medical Facilities

The vessel is equipped with a medical infirmary with an adequate supply of western medicines and equipment. There will be a Western physician on board. We cannot guarantee to have every drug or piece of equipment for every medical problem. If passengers are under regular treatment for any ailment, they must bring a more than adequate supply of medicines for the duration of their voyage. We cannot accept responsibility for not having a specific brand or type of drug on board. If passengers suffer from any potentially serious illness, they should inform us prior to the voyage so that we can alert the doctor to their condition.

Communication

The vessel (radio room) is equipped with both direct satellite M phone and facsimile systems. There are also email facilities on board but no access to the internet. Full details on contacting the ship will be included in passengers' final documents. Although very reliable, the system can be slow and charges for telephone calls are quite expensive. The radio officer answers all incoming calls and receives and distributes any email messages.



Shop/Souvenirs

There is no shop on board, however, the bartender will have a limited stock of souvenirs (T-shirts, sweatshirts, caps, stuffed animals, films, drugstore items, sweets, etc.) on sale in the bar. Payment for items purchased can be made by cash or added to passengers' shipboard accounts.

Laundry Service

Laundry service will be available, similar to that of a hotel, provided by the cabin attendants.

Laundry request forms and bags will be in each cabin and laundry is collected each morning. Generally it will be returned in 48 hours. A complete laundry list with prices will be provided on board. Ironing services are also available at a minimal charge. There are no facilities for dry cleaning or a self-service laundry.

Dress on Board

In keeping with our expedition atmosphere, the dress code on board stresses informality. Passengers should plan to bring comfortable, casual clothing for all inside activities.



Payment System and gratuities

Upon embarkation, an account will automatically be opened for each passenger for purchases aboard ship. This will include bar services, laundry, communication charges, souvenirs, laundry, etc. An account for payment will be presented on the final day of the voyage.

Final payment can be made using cash, or major credit cards - Visa and MasterCard. All prices are in Euros. Personal checks are NOT accepted on board.



Overview

On 5 December, 1914, Sir Ernest Shackleton and his team of 27 explorers set sail for the Weddell Sea, Antarctica. The mission was to be the first to cross the Antarctic continent, coast to coast via the South Pole. On 17 January, within sight of land, their expedition vessel the Endurance became frozen fast in ice floes. In May, the Antarctic sun set for the last time before winter. When spring arrived, the breaking of the ice and subsequent movement of giant ice floes splintered the ship's hull.

On 15 November, 1915, the Endurance finally slipped beneath the ice. Stranded all alone, beyond all hope of rescue, the team was to endure the most uninhabitable, the windiest, and the coldest place on earth, surviving on penguins, seals and sea birds. For five months, Shackleton and his men camped on ice floes, marched on ice for over 100 km and finally, on 9 April, the ice floe that they were camped on broke into two. Shackleton decided that the crew should enter the lifeboats and head for the nearest land. After seven days at sea in the three small lifeboats, the men landed on Elephant Island, but the island was also an inhospitable place far from any shipping routes and thus a very poor location to wait for rescue. On 24 April, 1916 Shackleton took decisive action and set sail for South Georgia with five of his most able men.

South Georgia is a tiny island in the direct track of deep atmospheric depressions that roar through the Drake Passage between Terra del Fuego and Antarctica with near freezing annual temperatures. Miraculously they survived the 1300 km odyssey, which took two weeks in an open lifeboat across the world's most treacherous of oceans. The crossing is regarded as the most remarkable rescue saga in maritime history. The story of Shackleton's epic survival and subsequent rescue of his crew on Elephant Island (not a single crewmember was lost) is still hailed as the greatest epic of the century.

The Vision

Nearly a century later, in 2010, the heroic spirit of Shackleton lives on through a new team of explorers: To follow his footsteps, not for the glory of being the first to cross the Antarctic or the first to climb the highest mountain but to produce a momentous documentation of one of the most beautiful places on Earth. This production will serve as a gift for future generations with an imaging epic that guarantees to inspire, invigorate and challenge for preservation of planet earth. **Elysium** is a project that draws upon the world's finest nature artists and scientists to document the vista, flora and fauna of the Antarctica Peninsula and South Georgia. The area is regarded as one of the most enchanting wilderness regions of our planet, yet volatile and under severe threat from the warming of the world's climate. The production promises the most awesome and most stunning audio visual interpretation ever seen of Antarctica.

The Mission

The mission of the **Elysium** team is to encapsulate the splendor of the frozen continent, the sights and sounds of this enchanting region on the final year of the first decade of the new millennium into one exquisite book and film.



Objectives

1. To document the above and below scenes, flora and fauna that Shackleton and his team would have seen and missed after losing the Endurance - from the Weddell Sea to Elephant Island and the heroic sail to South Georgia. Visual documentation will also comprise of 24-hour non-stop shoots of selected sites.
2. To procure visual documentation of the diversity and biomass of animals, glaciers, land and seascapes captured at the end of the 1st decade of the new millennium – this will serve as an important reference for the monitoring of climate change. The Antarctic Peninsula is particularly sensitive as annual average temperature has increased about 2.5C in the last 50 years; this is 2 or 3 times faster than the rest of the world average. This makes the Antarctic Peninsula the most critical region for ongoing observation.
3. To produce a feature length movie and a book; this shall be the greatest and most compelling production ever undertaken of Antarctica concocted by the creative interpretation of the world's best nature conservation photographers, film makers, artists, musicians and scientists. The visual rendering of the book and film shall have a spiritualistic treatment to promote the beauty and conservation of Antarctica. Whilst the film will be in an artistic nonverbal format, prose, quotes and scientific facts will complement the visuals. An original cinematic style soundtrack including on site recordings of the sounds of the Antarctic, shall be composed for the production.
4. A broadcast documentary about **ELYSIUM** is in the plans to record the making of this landmark project.
5. Shackleton's Antarctic Visual Epilogue (SAVE) will become an image database derived from **Elysium** to serve as a reference index of the Antarctica Peninsula and South Georgia. A selection of imagery from the expedition shall be contributed towards the initiation of this archive. This archive is dedicated as an everlasting tribute to Sir E. Shackleton, the greatest hero of Antarctic explorations. A curator shall be appointed to manage the archive and curate new images of the region from 2010. This archive will be made available for educational and scientific reference of the Antarctic Peninsula and South Georgia for climate change study.

*The limited edition (2010 copies) of **Elysium** is targeted for release in 2013 to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition (1914-1916).*



ELYSIUM – the 2010 Odyssey (10 February – 01 March)

To achieve the desired outcome, some of the world's most celebrated explorers have been selected for the principal team which includes David Doubilet, Jennifer Hayes, Wyland, Amos Nachoum, Heather Angel, Leandro Blanco, Jonathan Shackleton, Göran Ehlme, Paul Nicklen, Michael AW and Jamie Watt. Opportunities now arise for individuals who wish to be part of an expedition among the giants of twentieth first century explorers in a benchmark project that will leave behind a legacy of achievement and discovery for this generation and the next.

Route: Ushuaia – Weddell Sea (Antarctic Peninsula) – South Georgia - Ushuaia
Elysium is a non-profit project organized by **OceanNEnvironment Ltd Australia**

Expedition Facilitator & Diving Support - Waterproof Expedition (WPX)

Principal Team

Project Director: Michael AW, Ocean Geographic, NHM BBC Award winner

Expedition Leader: Göran Ehlme, Waterproof Expeditions, NHM BBC Award winner

Cruise Director: Marlynda Elstgeest, Waterproof Expeditions

Principal photographer: David Doubilet, National Geographic Photographer

Principal Photographer: Jennifer Hayes, National Geographic

Principal Photographer: Paul Nicklen, National Geographic. NHM BBC Award winner

Principal Photographer: WYLAND, Wyland Foundation

Principal Photographer: Amos Nachoum, Big Animal Inc, NHM BBC Award winner

Principal Cinematographer: Leandro Blanco, BBC Award Winner,

Principal Video crew: Stuart Ireland, World Underwater Pictures Winner

Director of Diving: Peter Szyszka

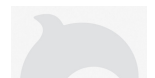
Deputy Expedition Leader: Jamie Watt, marine scientist, explorer

Principal Photographer: Heather Angel, Royal Photographic Society, UK, Biologist

Historian: Jonathan Shackleton. Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, London

The Expedition Platform: MV Professor Molchanov

Waterproof Expeditions has chartered this modern, ice-strengthened research vessels, built in Finland for the Russian Academy of Science, ideally suited to expedition cruising in polar areas and a stable platform for the Elysium shoot. Accommodation and on-board-life is cosy and comfortable and most cabins have private facilities. The public areas include a dining room which also acts as lecture room, a bar with reference books, a doctors cabin, dive room and a sauna. The vessel has a large bridge and good open-deck viewing areas as well as a full complement of Zodiac landing crafts. Because the Polar expedition vessels are not specifically build for diving we have designed a special **Waterproof Expeditions Dive Container** that we bring on board. This provides comfortable storing space in boxes for your gear, and a heating system to dry your suit and BC. No hassle to bring your suits and gear into your cabin or inside the ship.



Joining the ELYSIUM Shackleton Expedition

Who can participate?

Anyone relatively fit from the age from 15 to 65; conservation minded with a great passion for the natural world may apply. Write to info@ElysiumEpic.org for application form.

Is this a diving only expedition?

No, this expedition focuses to capture fauna and flora images above and underwater. There will also be lectures, photographic workshops, landings and if you wish you can shoot along side the topside or underwater supporting shooters.

Do I need to be a scuba diver?

No; the expedition will focus both above and below water. Topside and underwater activities operate independently, you can choose to be solely topside or both.

Can I scuba dive and shoot alongside the principal and lead shooters?

Yes – but numbers are restricted and you have to be trained to dive in extreme cold conditions. Selection will be on a first come first serve basis.

Do I have to work very hard during the expedition?

We can assign you with a specific task or you can just come along as an observer and enjoy the production in real time. You can participate in the landing, snorkeling, scuba and shoot as much or as little as you desire! You should discuss this with the expedition co-coordinator. Do let us know if you have special skill you think it is relevant to the production.

Will I be part of the expedition team?

Absolutely – you will be credited in the book, film and web site. You will be issued with the official expedition jacket, fleece and equipment from the project sponsors. Your name will also appear on the official expedition flag and scroll. You will also receive a personalized copy of the limited edition of Elysium value at 210 Euro

Can I contribute my images or footage to the Elysium film, book and database?

Yes – we will be delighted to review your work for the final production; you will be paid for usage. You can choose to keep the fees or donate your money to the on-going maintenance of The Shackleton's Antarctic Image database – the climate change reference index.

What types of cabins are available?

The cabins are comprised of triple share, twin standard, twin with en-suite, superior and one state suite. Subject to availability and price varies from 9000 to 15000 Euro pp.

Where and when do I have to go to join the expedition?

12 February (embarkation at 16.00 hours in Ushuaia, Argentina) till 02 March 2010 (disembarkation at 09.00 hours in Ushuaia, Argentina)

Joining the ELYSIUM Shackleton Expedition

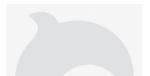
Editorial & Broadcast Right

OceanNEvironment claims full copyright to the project, storyline, interviews, scripts, research documents/data, book, program and films. Unless on specific assignment with signed agreement, copyright of images, film /video footage are of respective author. However OceanNEvironment has the option for first right of use but exemption may be negotiable.

FAQ's :

Can I use my own images or video footage for commercial usage prior to the release of the books and film?

While we do not insist on an embargo period, we will like to keep specific images/ scenes special for the book and films. However address this issue on a case to case basis with the coordinator and in most instances, this should not be a problem.



Can I produce my own video about Elysium for commercial broadcast purpose?

For obvious reason, this is not possible. However do share your idea with us and we will be happy to discuss this further with you.

Can I produce my own video about Elysium for competition and promotional use?

Absolutely – please discuss this with the coordinator, we may be able to share some other materials with you and help you with your production.

Can I write my own story about Elysium for magazines, newspaper and on-line media?

Absolutely – but the production, crew and sponsors need to be accurately credited. We would like the privilege of reviewing your copy and images prior to publication. A press officer will be assign for this purpose.

Can I use of my images, film /video footage from the Elysium shoot for editorial, film, DVD that are unrelated to the Elysium project?

Absolutely; except for images/footage selected for use in the Elysium book/films, you have full access of your work. Stocks that are under consideration for the Elysium production maybe considered for use on a case to case basis.

How soon can I apply?

Write to info@Waterproof-expeditions.com for application form immediately.

Principal Team Biography

Michael AW- Project Director

Michael AW is the founding director of OceanNEnvironment, a charity organization listed with the Registrar of Environment Australia. As founder of Asian Geographic and publisher of Scuba Diver from 1998 to 2005, he used the magazines to support the conservation efforts of OceanNEnvironment. Taking conservation and education of the ocean to the next level, in 2007 Michael convened an editorial board comprising of Stan Waterman, David Doubilet, Emory Kristof, Gerry Allen PHD, Carden Wallace PHD, Alex Mustard PHD, Doug Perrine, Jennifer Hayes, and Christopher Lee to launch the hallmark of publication for the sea – Ocean Geographic.

Pursuing the art form of documentary photography, Michael AW is well known for his saturated colour imagery. His work on environmental issues and natural history, has been featured in BBC Wildlife, National Geographic, Asian Geographic, GEO, Underwater GEOGRAPHIC, Nature Focus, Action Asia, Scuba Diver, Smithsonian magazine, Ocean Realm (USA), Times, Asia Week, DIVE, Unterwasser, Tauchen, and Aquanaut, to name but a few. His photographs have received more than 50 awards from several international organizations including the prestigious Nikon International Photo Contest on three occasions. Michael is a three time winner at the World Festival of Underwater Pictures, Antibes. In 2002 he won Best Music Adaptation for Video, the Gold Diver statue for Best Black & White print in 2005 and the Bronze stature for Portfolio the most prestigious category of festival in 2006. He is also a recipient of two awards from the Natural History Museum BBC Photographer of the Year Wildlife Competition in 2000 and in 2006 he won the Best Winner award in the underwater category.

Michael has produced and directed two 24-hour photographic documentaries of corals reefs in the Australian Great Barrier Reef and the Maldives in 1995 and 1999 respectively. These extended sojourns have been encapsulated in books and a broadcast video documentary for National Geographic. His first book, 'Beneath Bunaken' about the marine park in Sulawesi received the accolade of being the Presidential 'Gift of State' for Indonesia at APEC 1994.

Subsequently in 1996 he produced for the Maldives – "Dreams from a Rainbow Sea", which was used as official gift for the president, fishermen and tourism officers. The Four Seasons



Resort Maldives also used this title as premier gift for their guests. He was the co-author and photographer for TANAH AIR, bio-diversity of Indonesia. He has authored 25 natural history books about fishes, corals, invertebrates and he has also contributed to the Encyclopedias of Malaysia and Indonesia. He has collaborated with Dr. Carden Wallace in one of the most definitive book about the staghorn corals of the Indo-Pacific. His recent accomplishment include the launch of "Celebrate the Sea" and Underwater Jungles both high quality case-bound collectors edition published in 2002.

In 2003 he completed "Richest Reefs – Indonesia", a visual extravaganza from some of the most beautiful reefs in the world – this book is adopted by the Indonesian government as an official gift of state. A feature documentary of the same title was also produced in 2003. His most recent work is 'Beneath North SulawesiSea' released in October 2006 with a world wide launch in Birmingham, London, Antibes, Orlando and Singapore. Michael Aw was awarded the prestigious 2008 Peter Benchley Shark Conservation Award by SRI president Stan Waterman at 2008 Celebrate the Sea Festival in Manila. The award honors the memory of the late Peter Benchley is awarded for Michael's a highly-effective and unrelenting campaign against shark fin soup consumption in the *Asia Pacific region*.

Göran Ehlmé – Expedition Leader

Göran, originated from Sweden, has planned and led many field trips to the polar areas, and was the first to lead diving expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctica. He has 24 years diving experience, is a certified PADI Instructor and has been diving the polar areas since 1993. He dives both open water and under the ice during summer and is particularly experienced with Walrus, Emperor Penguins and Leopard Seals. As an underwater cameraman Göran has been on assignment filming many documentaries for Animal Planet, BBC, Canal Plus and National Geographic. Goran won the overall award of the BBC's Shell Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition with his image of a feeding Walrus underwater in North East Greenland. He has filmed Beluga, Narwhal, Seals, Walrus and other mammals in the Canadian Arctic, Greenland and Svalbard. In Antarctica, he filmed on Humpback and Minke whales and all members of the Seal family including the Leopard. He has also captured most penguin species, including Emperors, and many invertebrates on film. In the Azores (Faial & San Miguel) he spent four seasons diving with Sperm Whales, and since 1985 he has been diving with Orcas in Norway and became experienced with the whales themselves and the logistics and techniques involved in getting close to them. Göran's footage has been used in numerous series and films over the past years. His credits include:

Emperor Penguins under water in the Hollywood Production "March of the Penguins" , 2006

Lord of the Ice, Leopard seals (Discovery/Saint Thomas Productions, 2003)

What do the Walruses know? (SVT,DR, 2003)

Wildlife Special-Killer Whales (BBC/Discovery, 2003)

Hunt for the Red Whale, Killerwhales (Survival, 2003)

Blue Planet - Frozen Seas (BBC/Discovery, 2002, Narwhal, Walrus & Emperor penguins)

Toothed Titans (National Geographic, 1999, feeding Walrus sequence)

White whales & Narwhals chattering of Ghosts (Canal+, 1999)

The Leopard Seal (Saint Thomas/Canal+, 1998)

Avaq-The Arctic Toothwalker, Walrus (Scandinature)

Svalbard-Where the Polar Bears Reign, Walruses (Scandinature)

For his company, Waterproof International in Sweden, Göran is the head-designer of neoprene drysuits, wetsuits and accessories. He has been testing the suits during is camera work in the Polar regions and has designed them with his experiences in his mind. The quality and design of the suits have won many Awards for the Best Suits all over the world. Göran is also the co-founder of Waterproof Expeditions, the expedition facilitator of Elysium. As world's expert on Polar Diving, Waterproof Expeditions organizes expeditions around the world focusing on pristine underwater ecosystems, nature and photography.

David Doubilet – National Geographic – photographer in residence & Jennifer Hayes

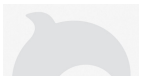
One of the world's leading underwater photographers, David Doubilet has shot more than 60 stories for National Geographic magazine since 1972. Doubilet's undersea reporting has taken him to the Red Sea, Pearl Harbor, the South Pacific and beyond. He has captured groundbreaking images of great white sharks, flashlight fish, shark-repelling flounders, creatures of the undersea desert, fluorescent coral, WW II wrecks and much more. A consummate artist, award-winning photographer David Doubilet began photographing underwater environments at the age of 12 in the cold, green seas off the northern New Jersey coast. He used a Brownie Hawkeye camera wrapped in a clear plastic bag, and he's been behind the lens ever since. Doubilet's first work for National Geographic Magazine was published in 1972. Since then, as a Contract Photographer for NGM, he has produced over sixty stories for the magazine, in recent years adding author to his credit line of photographer. His warm-water work has taken him throughout Indonesia, Micronesia, Australia and New Guinea in the Pacific; Sri Lanka and the Seychelles in the Indian Ocean; and all over the Caribbean. The Red Sea, his favorite "underwater studio", has produced at least ten different stories for the magazine.

Cold-water work has immersed him off the coast of England; in Scotland's Loch Ness, the Okavango in Africa; into the teeming waters of the Galapagos; around the mysterious shores of Japan; and deep in Canada's Northwest Pacific. He has also worked off the entire eastern coast of the United States -- from Maine to the Florida Keys -- and California. Doubilet's photography has won many prizes including in 1969 the prestigious "Sara Prize and International Award" given by Mondo Sommerso Magazine in Italy. He was the first American and the youngest person to win this award. In 1975 he was named "Diver of the Year" by the Boston Sea Rovers, one of the diving world's most honorable organizations. He has also received several honorable mentions by the National Press Photographer's Association over the last decade. In 1993 he was honored in France by winning first place trophy in the Professional Category of an international contest sponsored by C.M.A.S. (World Underwater Federation); and by appearing as Guest of Honor at the 20th World Festival of Underwater Photography in Cap D'Antibes. Although most of Doubilet's photographic time is spent working for the National Geographic Society and its diverse publications, his work has also appeared worldwide in other magazines and books. His commercial work includes several ad campaigns for clients such as Kodak, Fa Soap, Vitaspa, Seagrams, and Microsoft. He did the still photography for two films -- THE DEEP and SPLASH. A popular speaker and instructor, Doubilet has appeared on the "Today Show" on NBC-TV and is in demand for his lectures and slide shows at universities, underwater film festivals and clubs (the Explorer's Club and the Harvard Club both in NYC) around the world. About his work for National Geographic, Doubilet says, "My job description is to make a picture of a place no one has ever seen before...or to make a picture that's different of a place that everybody's seen before."

Jennifer Hayes is a natural history writer and photographer with a background in aquatic ecology and zoology. Jen is a co-founder of Undersea Images Inc. and her words and images have appeared in numerous books and publications worldwide. Jen and David Doubilet collaborate to co-produce assignment features for numerous domestic and international publications, ad shoots, book projects and global marine conservation projects

Paul Nicklen

Paul Nicklen is one of National Geographic's top photographers and he has won the World Press Photo in 2006 (Nature). Paul grew up on Baffin Island, Nunavut, Canada where his family was the only non-Inuit families in a small settlement of 140 Inuit. The Inuit taught



him how to survive in the Arctic, read the weather and, to be patient. As a kid, without television, radio, and computer games, he spent most of his time in the hills watching wildlife, weather and the light play shadow games across the landscape. At that young age, the seed to become a nature photographer was deeply planted. He worked as a wildlife biologist for four years in the Northwest Territories and was fortunate enough to work on species as lynx, grizzly bears, bison, caribou and polar bears. A few years later he went on a three-month solo expedition into the high arctic to live on the open tundra with the bears, wolves and open sky. That trip helped him to confirm that he could better serve wildlife populations by becoming a nature photojournalist rather than being a biologist or just a wildlife photographer. His goal is to continue bridging the gap between excellent scientific research and the public by producing stories for magazines such as National Geographic. Since 1994, he has published in hundreds of magazines around the world and had three stories recently appear in National Geographic Magazine, all working towards this common goal. He recently published an article on Leopard Seals in Antarctica for National Geographic which was awarded for the World Press Photo 2006. Paul is also a winner of the 2000/2001 BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition.

WYLAND - Artist of the Sea

Marine Life Artist Wyland has earned the distinction as one of America's most unique creative influences, and a leading advocate for marine resource conservation. An accomplished painter, sculptor, photographer, writer, and SCUBA diver, he has traveled the farthest reaches of the globe for more than twenty-five years, capturing the raw power and beauty of the undersea universe. His non-profit Wyland Foundation has supported numerous conservation programs since 1993, including Wyland's monumental Whaling Wall mural project — an epic series of 100 life size marine life murals that spans twelve countries on four continents, and is viewed by an estimated 1 billion people every year. His most recent wall is painted in Beijing for the 2008 Olympic. The artist's efforts, moreover, have been recognized by the United Nations, Sierra Club, the Underwater Academy of Arts and Sciences, where he is listed among its Diving Hall of Fame, and private and public institutions throughout the world.

Hailed a "Marine Michaelangelo" by USA Today, Wyland's work is sought by millions of collectors and his galleries throughout the United States are considered a must-see on the itineraries of travelers everywhere. His equally successful Wyland Foundation, in partnership with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, is actively engaged in teaching millions of students around engaged in teaching millions of students around our oceans, rivers, lakes, streams, and wetlands. Listed in Who's Who in American Art, the Guinness Book of World Records, and many other national and international publications, the multi-faceted artist has even hosted several series for television, including, "Wyland's Ocean World" on the Discovery Channel's Animal Planet Network. Today, he is considered one of the most influential artists of the 21st Century, with artwork in museums, corporate collections, and private homes in more than one hundred countries.

Amos Nachoum

Professional Marine and Wildlife Photographer Amos Nachoum has led National Geographic expedition teams with Dr. Eugenie Clark, Dr. Sylvia Earle, astronaut Buzz Aldrin, and has coproduced documentaries with Stan Waterman. He was the team leader for National Geographic's Red Sea, Great White Shark, and November '96 Killer Whale photo expeditions. Mr. Nachoum's photos and essays have appeared in more than 500 publications in North America, Europe, and Japan, including National Geographic magazine, Ocean Realm, Island, Outside, Rodale's Scuba Diving, Time, Life, The New York Times, Condé Nast Traveler, Le Figaro, Terra Sauvage, Airone, and Mondo Somerso. In addition, his work has been included in the books The Living Ocean, Oceans, and The World of Nature. He has been profiled in television appearances on National Geographic Explorer (Sept. '07), the Today Show, and

Good Morning America, as well as People, Esquire, and Money magazines. In 1988 he won Nikon's underwater photography contest and in 1993, the Communication Arts Award. He is currently an instructor on the Nikonos team of professional photographers and also conducts his own SLR and advanced u/w photo seminars. Arising from the belief that private individuals should have access to the same sights as governments and large corporations, Amos has developed the cutting-edge adventure-travel program Big Animals Photography Expeditions specifically to provide opportunities to observe, photograph, and interact with the most imposing inhabitants of the sea, such as great white sharks, killer whales, sperm and humpback whales, dolphins, and more. Only through such observation and interaction, Amos Nachoum believes, can people learn to truly understand and respect some of the most impressive citizens of our water planet. Amos is a winner of the 2007 BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition.

Leandro Blanco, Multi awards winner -Film maker

Born in Spain, Leandro is the most celebrated underwater music video maker in the world. In the year 2002, for the first time in the history of the World Festival of Underwater Pictures, Antibes, the judges awarded him a honorary award for his three videos "Ocean chronicles" "Shame on you" and "With the flow" for his creative expression and his commitment to the protection of the environment. In 2004 he was named Diver of the year in the United States at BTS (Beneath the Sea) in New York for his contribution to the art of film and in 2007 Greenpeace acknowledged Leandro Blanco the "Oceans Award" for his film "One for All". The same film also won the "Celebrate the Sea 2007" Rolex Award of Excellence" for short documentary. Leandro's passion for nature had already taken him all over the world. He had also written several pieces of music celebrating the beauty of the Amazon jungle and the vast deserts of Africa. His first short documentary got him first prize at the London film festival, and by 1990 he had already won several mayor awards, including "VIDEO FILM MAKER OF THE YEAR" BY THE BBC WILD LIFE MAGAZINE, for his documentary skills for his video There's a place. In 1990 he made his first underwater documentary, which he wrote, narrated, edited, performed and wrote all the music. Leandro has received over 50 international awards for his documentaries, and his music scores have been acclaimed by magazines like BILLBOARD. He is also an honorary member of THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAFIC SOCIETY, for his photography in the video "JUST PASSING BY TOO". In 1999 he received one of the most important underwater video award at the World Underwater Pictures Festival Antibes for the film "Missing You - a music documentary in memory of Jacque Yves Cousteau. Since then he is the only person that has won this prestigious award in eight consecutive years. He was the co-producer of several documentaries on the Maldives with MICHAEL AW. He has also worked with Michael on the "24 hours beneath a Rainbow Sea" documentary produced for the National Geographic Channel broadcast worldwide.

Peter Szyszka - Director of Diving

Peter Szyszka is among the elite of diving professionals worldwide having achieved Instructor Trainer status with 6 training agencies - PADI Course Director, TDI Instructor Trainer for all courses including Trimix, DSAT Trimix Instructor Trainer, DAN Instructor Trainer in Oxygen Provision, Emergency First Response Instructor Trainer and Instructor Trainer for IAHD (International Association of Handicapped Divers). Hailing originally from Poland, Peter is now resident in Australia, having emigrated 17 years ago. He is one of the most sought after instructors in Asia Pacific but this demand is not solely due to his impressive qualifications.

He has a gift for training, an extensive knowledge in all areas of diving and a passion for this sport that inspires all who come in contact with him. His resume stands at more than 1000 diving certifications, with more than 150 of these at instructor level. Peter is certified to service over 12 brands of scuba equipment and has an extensive knowledge of, and

experience in equipment configuration including rebreathers, oxygen cleaning and gas blending. Not only are Peter's teaching and other qualifications impressive, but so too is his diving experience. He is a passionate wreck diver, particularly deep wrecks. Peter has dived on all 7 continents and 32 countries in all conditions and water temperatures.

Jamie Watts – Assistant Expedition Leader

Jamie is a biologist, and has worked in a variety of marine fields. He is currently working part of the year as a fisheries consultant and researcher, working on offshore fisheries management, research cruises, observer programmes and illegal fishing issues, and the rest of the year as an assistant expedition leader, marine biology and climate change lecturer, logistics coordinator and zodiac driver on expedition vessels working in the Antarctic and Arctic regions. Jamie recently completed a two year posting as a fisheries scientist for the British Antarctic Survey on the remote subantarctic island of South Georgia. His job on the island was widely varied, including writing scientific papers (two papers published), to aging, diet analysis and plankton work, to creating the identification guides used by fisheries observers, to giving presentations on marine life and fisheries work to visitors. The job allowed and required total immersion in all aspects of Southern Ocean ecology. The two year posting on an isolated island (year round population 13 people and several million seals and penguins), included everything involved in keeping the base running and being part of a small base community. His passion is marine life, and he work has been published in BBC Wildlife magazine, and as well as a variety of media ranging from the new Ocean Geographic magazine to scientific papers and of two chapters, on marine organisms and ecology zones, in a textbook for 16 year olds. Jamie is also a keen wildlife and underwater photographer, and illustrator. He has had photographs, (including the BAS Calendar), illustrations, scientific papers, identification guides and species lists published. Additionally, Jamie has a broad range of inshore and offshore boat-based experience, with hundreds of days logged at sea and an experienced SCUBA Instructor, with PADI MSDT rating and over 1200 dives logged all over the world.

Jonathan Shackleton – Historian

Jonathan is a cousin of the Irish Kildare born Antarctic explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton. He is the family historian for the Irish Shackletons, whose ancestor founded a Quaker school in Ballitore, County Kildare in 1726. He is a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin in Natural Sciences and was awarded his Masters Degree from Ohio State University for work in Arctic Alaska. As a lecturer and guide, Jonathan has accompanied 21 groups to the Antarctic in the past 10 years as historian, guide, photographer and occasional Zodiac driver. Highlights of his visits have been landing on the godforsaken Elephant Island at Point Wild, visiting Ernest Shackleton's grave on South Georgia, travelling to the Ross Sea, landing at Cape Adare and visiting two of the largest Emperor penguin colonies in the world. He continues to visit Antarctica regularly. He has been involved in many Shackleton activities including films, TV documentaries, television and radio interviews, exhibitions and has given many talks in Antarctica, Canada, England, Ireland (including schools), Tasmania and the United States. He acted as Consultant to Sir Ranulph Fiennes for his recent biography "Captain Scott". He is also very proud to have led a group of Irish students to the Antarctic in 2001 with the Canadian based Students On Ice group. This was the first group of students from Ireland or Europe to visit Antarctica. Jonathan owns one of the sledges that Ernest Shackleton took on his "Nimrod" expedition in 1907-1909. Jonathan has written a book with John MacKenna "Shackleton - An Irishman in Antarctica" about Ernest Shackleton with emphasis on the Shackleton family and the explorer's Irish background. It was published in 2002 (reprinted 2002, revised edition 2003) by Lilliput Press, Dublin, Ireland and University of Wisconsin Press in the USA. He was recently elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, London.



Heather Angel

Heather is a biologist and award-winning wildlife photographer based in the UK. For more than a quarter of a century, she has been at the forefront of wildlife photography in Britain and her work has been recognised by many awards both in Britain and overseas – including an honorary doctorate from Bath University, a special professorship from Nottingham University and a top award from the USA BioCommunications Association. She communicates her enthusiasm for photographing the natural world via her prodigious writing, her workshops and lectures. Her exhibition Natural Visions toured the UK from 2000 - 2004 and was also on show in Kuala Lumpur, Cairo and Beijing. She manages the specialist image library, Natural Visions, which markets her own work as well as over 50 other wildlife photographers. Heather was President of the Royal Photographic Society from 1984-86 – only the second lady in over 150 years. A veteran traveler to China, in 2007 Heather made six month-long trips to remote parts of this vast country for a new book – Green China – due out prior to the Beijing Olympics.

Primer: Climate Change in the Antarctic Peninsula Ice Shelves

The break-up of the Larsen B ice shelf occurred in early 2002. This event has been attributed to the effects of global warming. That it occurred is beyond dispute and that it is a result of the warming of the Antarctic Peninsula where it is situated is also beyond dispute. What remains unclear is whether or not this is a taste of things to come and an indicator of an Antarctic-wide phenomena or simply a localized result of the localized warming of the Antarctic Peninsula region alone.

An ice shelf is a thick layer of ice that is floating on the sea. They are fed from the land by glaciers. Where the ice leaves the land and starts to float on the sea is a region known as the “hinge zone” where the ice is particularly chaotic, broken-up and a nightmare to try and travel over. Ice shelves surround much of Antarctica.

The Larsen B ice shelf was about 220m thick (720 feet) and during a 35 day period in early 2002 lost about 3,250 km² of ice into the ocean. It is thought to have been in existence for at least 400 years prior to this and probably as long as 12,000 years since the end of the last ice age.

Such disintegration in such a short time period is therefore an extremely significant event. What now remains of the Larsen B is about 40% of what was there in 1995. It had been breaking up at what was considered to be a rapid rate anyway before this major event. The break-up is thought to be a consequence of higher temperatures and large amounts of summer melt-water running down crevasses in the ice shelf so speeding the disintegration process.

Overall in the Antarctic Peninsula, seven ice shelves have between them declined in area by about 13,500 km² since 1974. A more recently seen phenomenon that follows this ice shelf collapse is that the glaciers that fed the ice shelf seem to now be speeding up their flow down to the sea. This will certainly deposit more water in the oceans, and as this was previously on the land it will add to an increase in sea-level. The Antarctic peninsula doesn't have enough ice to make much of a difference to sea level in itself even if it were all to melt, but it is best seen as an indicator region that can be observed to enhance understandings of the mechanisms in other parts of the world.

Biological

Antarctica's only two flowering plant species that grow only on the Peninsula have spread considerably in the last few decades in both geographic distribution and also abundance in the areas where they are found. In some areas they are becoming the dominant species. Adelle penguins (*Pygoscelis adeliae*) have also been suffering a steady decline in parts of the Antarctic Peninsula region for the last 20 years. Adelle are reducing in number and

abandoning certain nesting sites while Chinstrap penguins (*Pygoscelis antarctica*) are taking their place. Adelie require pack ice for most of the year and feed almost exclusively on Krill, Chinstrap penguins will eat a wider variety of foods and prefer open water. The sea ice has declined over the last 20 years with the rise in temperature in the Peninsula region. Gentoo penguins (*Pygoscelis papua*) have also started to nest on the Peninsula in recent years, for the first time in living memory (and it needs to be noted that any memory of Antarctica doesn't stretch much beyond only a hundred years). Studies of the bones and remains found in abandoned colonies indicate that prior to 1950, no Gentoo penguins nested in these sites at all.

Krill shortages

Studies (November 2004) have shown that stocks of krill in Antarctica have declined dramatically in recent years. The reason for this is likely to be a fall in the amount of sea ice in the winter months particularly in the Antarctic Peninsula region. Krill numbers may have dropped by as much as 80% since the 1970's - so today's stocks are a mere 1/5th of what they were only 30 years ago. The decline in krill may in turn account for the decline in the numbers of some penguin species. Dr Angus Atkinson from British Antarctic Survey, says: "This is the first time that we have understood the full scale of this decline. Krill feed on the algae found under the surface of the sea-ice, which acts as a kind of 'nursery'. The Antarctic Peninsula, a key breeding ground for the krill, is one of the places in the world where there has been the greatest rise in temperatures due to global warming. This region has warmed by 2.5C in the last 50 years (much more than the mean global rate), with a striking consequential decrease in winter sea ice cover. "We don't fully understand how the loss of sea-ice here is connected to the warming, but we believe that it could be behind the decline in krill."

There are commercial implications as well as scientific ones. The Southern Ocean is a valuable fisheries resource, many of the species caught feed on krill. Thousands of tourists are also attracted to Antarctica to enjoy the spectacular wildlife, most of which feed on krill. There has been previous speculation that krill stocks might have decreased, based on smaller more localized surveys over shorter time periods. This new finding comes from data from nine countries working in Antarctica who pooled their separate data covering 40 Antarctic summers, in the period between 1926 and 2003. This is the first time such a large-scale view of change across the Southern Ocean has been seen. Another animal that feeds on the same phytoplankton food as krill, jelly-like colonial animals called salps that drift in the ocean currents have increased in the same time the krill have decreased. This decline in krill will also make it more difficult for the great baleen whales to return to pre-exploitation levels following their decimation in numbers during the years from approximately 1925-1975.

Ref: Cool Antarctica.com

