



Cruise Details

Name:	Mawson's Antarctica: Along the East Coast
Reference:	SCENIC111S151224-2
Operator:	Scenic Ocean Cruises
Cruise Type:	Ocean
Cruise Rating:	Ultra Luxury
Ship:	Scenic Eclipse II
Regions:	Antarctica
<hr/>	
Departs On:	15 Dec 24
Departs From:	Queenstown
<hr/>	
Arrives On:	08 Jan 25
Arrives At:	Hobart, Tasmania
<hr/>	
Cruise Nights:	24
Total Vacation Days:	25

Itinerary

Day 1: Queenstown (New Zealand)

Queenstown is the kind of place that will leave you breathless – in more ways than one. There are the high altitudes of the Southern Alps, the mirror-like Lake Wakatipu, the dreamy vine-laced countryside and the atmospheric town itself, with wine glasses toast the end of another remarkable day.
Enjoy your one-night hotel stay in Queenstown.

Arrives On: 15 Dec 24

Day 2: Queenstown (New Zealand)

This morning you will be transferred via coach from Queenstown to Bluff, where your ultra-luxury Discovery Yacht awaits. Marvel at the awe-inspiring scenery of rugged mountains, serene lakes, and lush forests.
Step on board Scenic Eclipse II and be warmly greeted with a glass of Champagne. Settle into your luxurious suite, meet your butler and fellow travellers and toast to the journey ahead.

Arrives On: 16 Dec 24

Day 2: Bluff (New Zealand)

Arrives On: 16 Dec 24

Day 3: Bluff (New Zealand)

Clinging to the very southern tip of the South Island, Bluff is one of New Zealand's oldest European settlements. It began life as a whaling station in the 1830s and has retained its strong ties to the sea, with one of the world's few natural oyster beds sitting just offshore in the Foveaux Strait. Bluff is the gateway to Stewart Island and Antarctica beyond, offering travellers a taste of the rugged character of an oystering port.

Freechoice:

Invercargill Sights & Transport World: Visit Invercargill to admire the antique vehicles at the Transport World Museum and enjoy the town's many stunning gardens.

Southern Sojourn: Explore Southland's art and history from Bluff, starting with a scenic drive to Gore. Visit the Moonshine Museum and Eastern Southland Art Gallery, where you'll discover local and international artworks.

Bluff Scenic Drive & Walking Tour: Discover Stirling Point, the southernmost tip of the South Island, and explore Bluff Hill for panoramic views. Travel along the scenic coastline to Oyster Cove Marina, enjoy Ocean Beach's wild beauty, and explore Bluff's maritime history at the Bluff Maritime Museum.

Arrives On: 17 Dec 24

Day 7: Balleny Islands (New Zealand)

This 160-kilometre-long chain of volcanic islands (some of them still active) straddles the Antarctic Circle. Here, you'll have a front-row seat to one of the greatest convergences of wildlife in the world.

Humpbacks, fin and minke whales may put on a show while we are nearby, breaching, blowing, and slapping their tails. Crabeater, Weddell, Ross Sea Seals and leopard seals loll about, sunbaking between swims. Join a Discovery Excursion or just take in the view from the Observation Deck or your private verandah.

Discovery: Daily experiences may include cruising on Zodiacs, stepping ashore to view vast penguin rookeries or historic huts, and kayaking around icebergs. Wherever your voyage takes you, you will have countless "pinch me" moments.

Arrives On: 21 Dec 24

Day 8: Balleny Islands (New Zealand)

The chain is named after British mariner Captain Balleny, who reported seeing smoke billowing from its 1,340-metre summit when exploring the area in 1839. Almost completely

mantled by ice, Young Island is the northernmost island in the archipelago. At the other end of the chain, Sturge is the southernmost island. Pull out your binoculars from your suite or head for the telescopes in the Observation Lounge and take in the astonishing bird life, including enormous breeding colonies of southern fulmers and snow petrels. Gain deep insights from your expert Polar Discovery Team about the region and its rich birdlife.

Discovery: Partake in daily Scenic Discovery excursions. Cruise on the Zodiacs around ice formations, step onto islands to view vast penguin rookeries and seals. Kayak and stand-up paddleboard around icebergs and hear the ice cracking and whales feeding below.

Arrives On: 22 Dec 24

Day 9: Port information not found

With jagged cliffs and ink-black escarpments backed by the towering Admiralty Mountains, the Adare Peninsula is a postcard of natural drama. Be greeted by the largest colony of Adélie penguins in Antarctica and listen to the cacophony of 250,000 breeding pairs as you draw close to shore.

This is where the Southern Ocean gives way to the Ross Sea. It was the site of the first documented landing on the continent in 1895 and Norwegian explorer Carsten Borchgrevink's two 1899 huts remain on land. Explore the remains with your Polar Discovery Team, who will take you to shore in Zodiacs.

Discovery: Weather permitting, explore this fascinating environment by Zodiac, kayak and stand-up paddleboard, including possible shore landings.

Arrives On: 23 Dec 24

Day 10: Port information not found

Captain James Ross discovered and named Yule Bay, a curve in the coast of northern Victoria Land, in 1841. Like much of Antarctica, the immensity of the ice here can only be fully appreciated with some perspective – we recommend the Sky Bar for a grand vista.

In these rarely seen reaches of East Coast Antarctica, glaciers glitter like gems, ice lakes are scattered with star points of light and immense snow cliffs cast blue shadows, all under the gossamer sheen of a silvery light. This is a place of superlatives and the beauty will leave you speechless.

Discovery: Partake in daily Scenic Discovery excursions. Cruise on the Zodiacs around ice formations, step onto islands to view vast penguin rookeries and seals. Kayak and stand-up paddleboard around icebergs and hear the ice cracking and whales feeding below.

Arrives On: 24 Dec 24

Day 11: Port information not found

Today, get ready to explore as our experienced Polar Discovery Team plan your journey, picking the best spots based on the weather, ice, and wildlife sightings. Experience the grandeur of nature with the chance to see amazing wildlife, including penguins, whales, albatrosses, and seals.

Throughout the day, themed dining and entertainment experiences will keep the festive celebrations alive – it will be the whitest Christmas you've ever had.

Discovery: Partake in daily Scenic Discovery excursions. Cruise on the Zodiacs around ice formations, step onto islands to view vast penguin rookeries and seals. Kayak and stand-up paddleboard around icebergs and hear the ice cracking and whales feeding below.

Arrives On: 25 Dec 24

Day 12: Port information not found

If you're a fan of geographical mysteries, you'll be enthralled by the Terra Nova Islands. They were first spotted in the early 1900s, but when a German expedition set off to map the islands by helicopter in 1989, there was nothing there. Theories around these 'phantom islands' abound – were they fog banks, seaweed, icebergs?

What does exist is the Terra Nova Hut, Scott's shelter from the elements on the volcanic shore of Cape Evans, and his base while he was trying for the Geographic South Pole. You may have a chance to explore this region today.

Discovery: Partake in daily Scenic Discovery excursions. Cruise on the Zodiacs around ice formations, step onto islands to view vast penguin rookeries and seals. Kayak and stand-up paddleboard around icebergs and hear the ice cracking and whales feeding below.

Arrives On: 26 Dec 24

Day 13: Port information not found

Today, you may reach the Mawson Peninsula, a narrow tongue of ice along the George V Coast. It's easy to be humbled by its immensity, with the Peninsula's vertiginous white cliffs glittering in the sun and casting unimaginable shadows over opaline swirls of the ocean surrounding it.

In between Scenic Discovery experiences, enjoy a specialty tea or coffee in the Observation Lounge and watch the world float by through Swarovski telescopes.

Arrives On: 27 Dec 24

Day 14: Port information not found

You might sail past a number of immense glaciers that carve through East Antarctica, making for incredible spectacles. It's hard to comprehend the scale of the Mertz Glacier, an enormous hunk of crystalised ice more than 30km wide that gleams like a turquoise jewel. Sunlight

cascades over its waves like liquid silver; in the troughs between are shadows of azure.

The 9km-wide Suvorov Glacier is similarly impressive, an endless bank of white unfurling into the distance. There are no trees or shrubs; flora is just a sprinkling of occasional lichen, moss and algae. This is what infinity looks like.

Discovery: Partake in daily Scenic Discovery excursions. Cruise on the Zodiacs around ice formations, step onto islands to view vast penguin rookeries and seals. Kayak and stand-up paddleboard around icebergs and hear the ice cracking and whales feeding below.

Arrives On: 28 Dec 24

Day 15: Port information not found

Australia has a rich Antarctic history and along Cape Denison at Commonwealth Bay you can see part of it frozen in time. The huts of the legendary explorer Sir Douglas Mawson, built from 1911-1914, are still standing here. A remarkable feat in the windiest place on the planet.

Weather permitting, you will have the opportunity to step back in time as you see the historic Mawson's Huts, walking through and immediately feeling connected with the men of that incredible expedition. You may also see emperor penguins at nearby Dumont D'Urville station.

Discovery: Partake in daily Scenic Discovery excursions. Cruise on the Zodiacs around ice formations, step onto islands to view vast penguin rookeries and seals. Kayak and stand-up paddleboard around icebergs and hear the ice cracking and whales feeding below.

Arrives On: 29 Dec 24

Day 16: Port information not found

If the wind stays away, Commonwealth Bay is one of the few places along East Coast Antarctica where it's possible to step ashore, giving you the chance to marvel at Mawson's six fragile wooden huts and structures.

The explorer and his team spent two years here documenting the continent. This legacy – along with his 1929-1931 expedition – is the reason why Australia has a territorial claim to 42 per cent of Antarctica. The Main Hut is the best preserved of the structures and you may be able spot his team's belongings left behind, including a cast-iron stove, bottles, jars and cans.

Discovery: Partake in daily Scenic Discovery excursions. Cruise on the Zodiacs around ice formations, step onto islands to view vast penguin rookeries and seals. Kayak and stand-up paddleboard around icebergs and hear the ice cracking and whales feeding below.

Arrives On: 30 Dec 24

Day 17: Port information not found

Largely ice free, Cape Denison's peninsula emerges from beneath the continental ice sheet. The result is a series of dramatic rocky ridges and valleys, the sculptural sweep of snow and ice at times interrupted by sharp-toothed mountains like black cut-outs against a turquoise sky. In this fathomless expanse their scale is impossible to judge, with no points of reference to mark their soaring heights.

Cape Denison is a magnet for breeding wildlife. Weddell seals can often be seen with pups during the breeding season, while colonies of skuas, petrels and penguins fill the shores and the sky.

Bring in the New Year with joyful celebrations on board this evening. Sip Champagne as you cruise through the world's coldest, iciest, and most mesmerising continent. Share these unforgettable moments with your new friends.

Discovery: Partake in daily Scenic Discovery excursions. Cruise on the Zodiacs around ice formations, step onto islands to view vast penguin rookeries and seals. Kayak and stand-up paddleboard around icebergs and hear the ice cracking and whales feeding below.

Arrives On: 31 Dec 24

Day 18: Port information not found

Your Polar Discovery Team are always on call to lead active excursions, whether kayaking or stand-up paddleboarding. Or today could be the day to brave the polar plunge. Pull on your swimsuit, throw off your robe and jump into the near-freezing Southern Ocean – a rite of passage for polar explorers.

Small and rocky, Ile du Gouverneur is part of Antarctica's Géologie Archipelago. In between these islands and the continent is sea ice, an important breeding site for Emperor penguins. The fact that it's close to a research station means that the creatures here are well documented – they also include Adélie penguins, Antarctic skuas, Wilson's storm petrels, southern giant petrels, snow petrels and Cape petrels. You'll likely also spot Weddell seals basking in the sun.

Arrives On: 01 Jan 25

Day 22: Macquarie Island, Tasmania (Australia)

Macquarie Island is a place that sparks every sense. From a distance, the earth appears to be moving. As Scenic Eclipse II approaches you realise that the land is, in fact, heaving – under the weight of millions of penguins.

Subject to permits and conditions, you can experience this extraordinary landscape that hosts one of the highest concentrations of wildlife in the Southern Ocean. Countless tuxedoed, bushy eyebrowed and golden crowned penguins – king, rockhopper, gentoo and the endemic royal – breed here. You're likely to see leopard seals patrolling the waters, southern elephant seals peeking from tussocked dunes, and sooty albatrosses circling overhead.

Arrives On: 05 Jan 25

Day 25: Hobart, Tasmania (Australia)

Your voyage ends in Hobart, the culmination of an unforgettable journey into one of the last unexplored corners of the planet. After breakfast, it's time to bid farewell to your new friends and the dedicated Scenic Eclipse II crew, who have made your voyage so

remarkable. Fly home carrying once-in-a-lifetime memories with you, or choose to extend your journey to explore the captivating city of

Hobart. Please book your flight to depart out of Hobart after 12:00 PM.

^Reservation required
#Spa treatments at additional cost.
^Helicopter and submersible experiences are at additional cost, subject to availability and regulatory approval, weigh restrictions, medical approval, and weather and ice

conditions. Please note, the itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons and weather conditions. As such, Scenic cannot guarantee the cruise will operate unaltered from the itinerary stated above.

Arrives On: 08 Jan 25

For more information on this cruise, please call +44 (0)1202 767926.

© 2024 Deluxe Cruises. This cruise itinerary was printed from <https://deluxecruises.co.uk>