



Ross Sea

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Best Historical Sights

- » Scott's *Terra Nova* Hut (p101)
- » Shackleton's *Nimrod* Hut (p103)
- » Borchgrevink's *Southern Cross* Hut (p91)
- » Erebus Chalice at Chapel of the Snows (p99)

Best Photo Ops

- » Dry Valleys (p94)
- » Mt Erebus (p105)
- » Erebus Glacier Tongue ice caves (p98)
- » Cape Royds ice edge (p103)

Why Go?

The explorers of the Heroic Age who sailed the Ross Sea region's ice-choked waters gained a crucial foothold here for exploration of the interior. Around the Ross Sea, Antarctica's richest historic heritage is on full display. Most stirring of all are Robert Scott's and Ernest Shackleton's wooden huts left behind on Ross Island. Carston Borchgrevink's huts at Cape Adare, the first structures ever built on the continent, remain today for those lucky enough to get ashore.

Antarctica's largest modern-day outpost, McMurdo Station, sits alongside diminutive, eco-friendly Scott Base, but the region's scree-covered shores and enormous Ross Ice Shelf are mostly the domain of Weddell seals and Adélie and emperor penguins. The steaming volcano, Mt Erebus, and the mysterious and otherworldly Dry Valleys are two additional prizes won by travelers persistent and fortunate enough to reach this relatively remote part of Antarctica.

Top Resources

- » *Icy Heritage: Historic Sites of the Ross Sea Region*, David Harrowfield. Details on 34 sites. Available from AHT.
- » *The Worst Journey in the World* (1922), Apsley Cherry-Garrard. Classic chronicle of horrible mid-winter trip to Cape Crozier.
- » *The Longest Winter: Scott's Other Heroes* (2011), Meredith Hooper. Gripping account of Scott's Northern Party's trials in winter snow cave.
- » *Water, Ice and Stone* (1995), Bill Green. Geochemist's account of working in the Dry Valleys.
- » **New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust** (www.nzaht.org) Extensive hut/expedition information.
- » **Antarctic Sun** (<http://antarcticsun.usap.gov>) The newspaper of the US Antarctic Program (USAP).

Ross Sea Highlights

1 Feel the chill of the ghosts of the polar party who never returned to **Scott's Terra Nova Hut** (p101)

2 Puzzle over fantastic natural wind-sculptures in the **Dry Valleys** (p94)

3 Peer into marine aquariums at McMurdo station's **Crary Lab** (p99) to see local sealife up close

4 Shuttle between Shackleton's **Nimrod** hut and the Adélie penguin rookery at **Cape Royds** (p103)

5 Watch steam drift lazily from the lava lake at **Mt Erebus** (p105)

6 Visit one of the world's **largest emperor penguin rookeries** (p92) at Cape Washington

7 Land atop the magnificent **Ross Ice Shelf** (p106) via helicopter and look for orcas along the ice edge

8 After exploring **Borchgrevink's huts**, photograph Antarctica's **largest Adélie penguin colony** (250,000 pairs!) at Cape Adare (p91)

9 Visit the museum at **Scott Base** (p101)

10 Fly over giant, crevassed **Beardmore Glacier** (p95) on your way to the Pole

