



# East Antarctica & the South Pole

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## Best Places for Science

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## Why Go?

Severe and spectacular, East Antarctica is the land of the polar plateau and the continent's coldest temperatures. The icebound coast, with its massive ice shelves, is broken up by the occasional ice-free oasis, or teeming seabird or emperor-penguin colonies.

Only a small number of research stations are scattered along these difficult-to-reach shores, and visitors appear so rarely that they are generally welcomed with open arms.

Inland East Antarctica, the heart of the ice cap, is only rarely visited by tourists. Several important research stations take advantage of the vast, thick ice sheet and its high, dry, freezing conditions: perfect for astronomy and physics.

Among them is the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. To reach here, you'll fly over magnificent glaciers, yawning crevasse fields, and the most barren snow on Earth as you cross the Polar Plateau to reach the mighty Geographic South Pole.

## Top Resources

*The South Pole* (1912), Roald Amundsen. Polar technician's triumph in reaching S 90°.

*Scott's Last Expedition* (1913), Captain Robert F Scott. Firsthand account, published posthumously.

*The Home of the Blizzard* (1915), Sir Douglas Mawson. The explorer's own account of survival and discovery.

*South with Mawson* (1947), Charles F Laseron. Life on windswept Cape Denison.

*La marche de l'empereur* (March of the Penguins; 2005), directed by Luc Jacquet.

*Nankyoku monogatari* (Antarctica; 1983), directed by Koreyoshi Kurahara. Music by Vangelis.

*South* (restored 1998), directed by Frank Hurley.

**US Antarctic Program** ([www.usap.gov](http://www.usap.gov)) Pole webcam.

**Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station** ([www.southpolestation.com](http://www.southpolestation.com)) Unofficial South Pole info and trivia.

