



# Antarctic Peninsula

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## Best Historical Sights

- » Port Lockroy (p75)
- » Detaille Island (p79)
- » Stonington Island (p81)
- » Snow Hill Island (p86)

## Best Scenery

- » Lemaire Channel (p78)
- » Paradise Harbor (p75)
- » Charlotte Bay (p74)
- » Cuverville Island (p74)
- » Danco Island (p74)

## Why Go?

The most accessible part of the continent, the beautiful Antarctic Peninsula extends a welcoming arm north toward South America's Tierra del Fuego as if beckoning visitors. And intrepid travelers do come, for the Antarctic Peninsula, the warmest part of the continent (facetiously called the 'Banana Belt') is Antarctica's major breeding ground for sea-birds, seals and penguins.

With its dramatic landscapes of steep snow-covered peaks often plunging straight into the sea, and with narrow iceberg-studded channels weaving between countless islands and the mountainous mainland, the Peninsula also offers some of Antarctica's most stunning scenery.

In recent decades, tourist landings have concentrated on sites along the western coast of the central Peninsula; relatively few ships of any sort visit the Weddell Sea, on the Peninsula's eastern side. It has, indeed, earned its reputation as an ice-choked ship-eater. Shackleton's *Endurance* is only the most famous example of the half-dozen vessels crushed there.

## Top Resources

- » *Two Men in the Antarctic* (1939), Thomas W Bagshawe. Gripping tale by one of two young men who wintered (alone on the continent) at Waterboat Point.
- » *Swimming to Antarctica* (2004), Lynne Cox. Fascinating autobiography by the Neko Harbor swimmer.
- » *The Ferocious Summer* (2008), Meredith Hooper. Global warming, penguins and the Peninsula.
- » *The Crystal Desert* (1992), David G Campbell. Ecologist's three summers studying the life of the Antarctic Peninsula.
- » **UK Antarctic Heritage Trust** (UKAHT; [www.ukaht.org](http://www.ukaht.org)) Maintains sights on the Peninsula, including Port Lockroy.
- » **Polar Times** ([www.americanpolar.org](http://www.americanpolar.org))

## Antarctic Peninsula Highlights

- 1 Photograph eye-popping scenery around the **Lemaire Channel** (p78), **Paradise Harbor** (p75) and **Charlotte Bay** (p74)
- 2 Listen to 200,000 braying Adélie penguins on **Paulet Island** (p83)
- 3 Knock back a throat-burning pepper vodka at the convivial bar of Ukrainian station **Academician Vernadskiy** (p79)
- 4 Send a postcard at UK base-turned-museum, **Port Lockroy** (p75)
- 5 Step inside a time capsule of 1950s British Antarctic life at Base W on **Detaille Island** (p79)
- 6 Search for fossils on **Seymour Island** (p86) to show your fellow visitors (remember, you can't remove anything!)
- 7 Explore Nordenskiöld's hut, the Peninsula's oldest remaining building, at **Snow Hill Island** (p86)
- 8 Spot Adélie penguins and human children at **Esperanza Station** (p82)
- 9 Inspect old science stations at **Stonington Island** (p81)
- 10 See science in action at **Palmer Station** (p76), **Rothera Station** (p80) or space-aged **Halley VI** (p87)

