



Antarctic Peninsula

Includes ➔

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Best Historical Sights

- ➔ Port Lockroy (p79)
- ➔ Detaille Island (p83)
- ➔ Stonington Island (p85)
- ➔ Snow Hill Island (p90)

Best Scenery

- ➔ Lemaire Channel (p82)
- ➔ Paradise Harbor (p79)
- ➔ Charlotte Bay (p78)
- ➔ Cuvertille Island (p78)
- ➔ Danco Island (p78)

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 seabirds, 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), by Thomas W Bagshawe. Gripping tale by one of two young men who wintered (alone on the continent) at Waterboat Point.

Swimming to Antarctica (2004), by Lynne Cox. Fascinating autobiography by the Neko Harbor swimmer.

The Ferocious Summer (2008), by Meredith Hooper. Global warming, penguins and the Peninsula.

The Crystal Desert (1992), by David G Campbell. Ecologist's three summers studying the life of the Antarctic Peninsula.

UK Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT; www.ukaht.org)
Maintains sights on the Peninsula, including Port Lockroy.

Polar Times (www.americanpolar.org)

Antarctic Peninsula Highlights

1 Paradise Harbor

(p79) Photographing eye-popping scenery and ice; **Lemaire Channel** (p82) and **Charlotte Bay** (p78) are similarly astounding.

2 Paulet Island

(p88) Listening to 200,000 braying adélie penguins.

3 Academician Vernadsky

(p83) Knocking back a throat-burning pepper vodka at the convivial bar of the Ukrainian station.

4 Port Lockroy

(p79) Sending a postcard from a UK base-turned-museum.

5 Detaille Island

(p83) Stepping inside a time capsule of 1950s British Antarctic life at Base W.

6 Seymour Island

(p89) Searching for fossils to show your fellow visitors (remember, you can't remove anything!)

7 Snow Hill Island

(p90) Exploring Nordenskjöld's hut, the Peninsula's oldest remaining building.

8 Esperanza Station

(p88) Spotting adélie penguins and local children.

9 Stonington Island

(p85) Inspecting rarely seen abandoned science stations.

10 Palmer Station

(p80) Seeing science in action.

