



# Ross Sea

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## Best Historical Sights

- ➔ Scott's *Terra Nova* hut (p105)
- ➔ Shackleton's *Nimrod* hut (p106)
- ➔ Borchgrevink's *Southern Cross* hut (p95)
- ➔ Erebus Chalice at Chapel of the Snows (p102)

## Best Photo Ops

- ➔ Dry Valleys (p98)
- ➔ Mt Erebus (p108)
- ➔ Erebus Glacier Tongue ice caves (p101)
- ➔ Cape Royds ice edge (p106)

## 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 the wooden huts Robert Scott and Ernest Shackleton 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*, by David Harrowfield. Details on 34 sites; available from AHT.

*The Worst Journey in the World* (1922), by Apsley Cherry-Garrard. Classic chronicle of a horrible midwinter trip to Cape Crozier.

*The Longest Winter: Scott's Other Heroes* (2011), by Meredith Hooper. Gripping account of the trials of Scott's Northern Party in a winter snow cave.

*Water, Ice and Stone* (1995), Bill Green. Geochemist's account of working in the Dry Valleys.

*Encounters at the End of the World* (2007), directed by Werner Herzog. Tales of life at McMurdo and on the Ice.

**New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust** ([www.nzaht.org](http://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 Scott's Terra

#### Nova hut (p105)

Feeling the chill of the ghosts of the polar party who never returned.

### 2 Dry Valleys

(p98) Puzzling over fantastic natural wind-sculptures.

### 3 McMurdo

#### Station (p99)

Peering into marine aquariums at Cray Lab to see local sea life up close.

### 4 Cape Royds

(p106) Shuttling between Shackleton's *Nimrod* hut and an adélie-penguin rookery.

### 5 Mt Erebus

(p108) Watching steam drift lazily from the lava lake.

### 6 Cape

#### Washington (p96)

Visiting one of the world's largest emperor-penguin rookeries.

### 7 Ross Ice Shelf

(p110) Landing atop the magnificent ice shelf via helicopter and looking for orcas along the ice edge.

### 8 Cape Adare

(p95) After exploring Borchgrevink's huts, photographing Antarctica's largest adélie-penguin colony (250,000 pairs!).

### 9 Scott Base

(p104) Visiting the museum at New Zealand's station.

