

Responsible Travel - Antarctica

**Royal
Geographical
Society**

with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

● Event Programme

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Saturday 12th September 2009

Travel Event

Responsible Travel...Antarctica

RGS-IBG in association with the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators

Join this event to learn more about the variety of opportunities for travel to Antarctica, learning from the personal experiences and passions of those involved in organized travel to the continent: from ship-based tours to independent adventure travel.

'Responsible Travel...Antarctica' presents a day-long event providing the latest advice to potential travellers including lectures and seminars led by key experts presenting high quality, informative and inspiring sessions.

From advice on when, where and how to travel; how to travel safely and with the minimum personal tourism footprint; to the future of travel to the continent, we welcome guidance and advice from specialists at IAATO. Invited speakers from the British Antarctic Survey will discuss the geography and environment of this continent, the importance of the science undertaken there, and examine the environmental impact of human activities.

With lectures ranging from accounts of recent adventure expeditions and stunning photography of the landscape and wildlife to examination of the "Heroic Age" of Antarctic exploration, 'Responsible Travel...Antarctica' will give you the best available information for planning a journey to this most amazing and beautiful place, at any level.

Accompanied by exhibitions of historic and contemporary photographs and artefacts from the Royal Geographical Society's rich collections, and on-hand travel consultant advice from IAATO-approved tour operators, the day presents a comprehensive source of information on Antarctica.



‘RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL...ANTARCTICA’ PROGRAMME

Doors Open– 10.00hrs

10.30-11.30hrs – WELCOME TO ANTARCTICA (Main Stage)

Welcome and introduction by Alasdair Macleod, Head of Enterprise and Resources, Royal Geographical Society (with IBG).

SETTING THE SCENE

Invited speaker: Dr John Shears, Board Member for Environment and Information at the British Antarctic Survey introduces Antarctica and gives a first-hand account of the geography, environment and science undertaken there. Q&A

11.30-12.00hrs – TRAVELLING TO ANTARCTICA (Main Stage)

Chaired by Kim Crosbie, Environmental Operations Director of the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators: practical advice on how best to travel safely to Antarctica. The panel will include Jane Rumble, Polar Regions Unit, FCO, representatives from Antarctic Logistics and Expeditions and David Fletcher, Polar Expedition Leader, Hanseatic Cruises. Personal recommendations and advice from experienced IAATO Expedition Leaders on practical aspects of travel and landings in Antarctica: what to see, where and when.

12.00-12.30hrs – HUMAN IMPACTS IN ANTARCTICA (Main Stage)

Invited Speaker: Rod Downie, Environmental Manager, British Antarctic Survey, examines the environmental impact of tourism and national operators, and the measures taken to avoid or minimise these impacts.

12.30-13.30hrs (Throughout the Building)

Time in which to meet some of the ‘Responsible Travel...Antarctica’ speakers, talk to IAATO members and travel consultants.

Display of images from Antarctica drawn from the Collections of the Society.

(Light refreshments will be available for purchase at the Society).

13.45-14.30hrs – ANTARCTIC ACTION AND ADVENTURE (Main Stage)


Representatives from Antarctic Logistics and Expeditions and Richard Haworth of High Latitudes outline some of the recent and forthcoming adventure expedition and mountaineering projects they have supported in the Antarctic and provide advice on safety and logistics, plus advice on routes, locations and methods of travel.

14.45-15.30hrs – OPTIONS:

IMAGES OF ANTARCTICA (Main Stage)

Julian Paren presents a striking audiovisual journey through Antarctica.

ANTARCTIC HERITAGE (Education Centre)



An overview of the “Heroic Age” of Antarctic exploration involving Scott and Shackleton, gives a fascinating account of the early British scientific bases on the Antarctic Peninsula and looks to the future of these historic sites.

15.45-16.30 ANTARCTICA QUESTION TIME (Main Stage)

We welcome all the speakers back to the Main Stage for an informal question and answer session, covering all aspects of the day’s sessions.

16.30-17.00hrs

An opportunity to talk to IAATO members and travel consultants and visit a display of artefacts from the Collections of the Society in the Foyle Reading Room. (Light refreshments will be available for purchase at the Society).

17.00-18.00hrs – FOOTSTEPS IN TIME

Lt. Henry Worsley, one of the family members of the Matrix Shackleton Centenary Expedition takes to the stage to recount his recent experience of recreating Shackleton’s Nimrod 1909 expedition to the South Pole, following in the footsteps of this pioneering “Heroic Age” expedition. The original team led by Shackleton got to within ninety-seven miles of the Pole before being forced back: 100 years later Will Gow, Henry Worsley and Henry Adams recreated the journey in its entirety before going on and reaching the Pole.

18.00hrs – Event Ends