



## In the realm of the great explorers

**26 days - Invercargill to Invercargill**



### *December 2015*

Sir Douglas Mawson is arguably the grandfather of Antarctic Science. The Australian Antarctic Expedition 1911 - 1914 is notable for its achievements and sadly its tragedies including the deaths of Ninnis and Mertz and Mawson's almost superhuman trek to safety.

Mawson's Hut at Cape Denison still stands; protected against the extreme weather the region is renowned for. Cape Denison is one of the very few ice free and readily accessible areas along the East Antarctic coastline. However when the Mertz Glacier tongue broke off in 2010 it blocked the annual movement of sea ice preventing any shipping and effectively isolating the area. This will

change, we are not sure when, possibly this next summer (2014/15). If it does then this expedition will sail in Dec 2015. If not it will be delayed.

---

### ***Day 1 — Invercargill***

Arrive Invercargill. Hotel and dinner included.

---

### ***Day 2 — Port of Bluff***

Board the Akademik Shokalskiy and depart.

---

### ***Day 3 — The Snares Islands***

Zodiac cruise the coastline to see wildlife including the endemic Snares Crested Penguin and Buller's Albatross.

---

### ***Day 4 - 5 — Auckland Islands***

Spend one day ashore on Enderby Island and another day in Carnley Harbour.

---

### ***Day 6 — At Sea***

Some of the best pelagic birding of the expedition.

---

### ***Day 7 to 8 — Macquarie Island***

This island supports one of the highest concentrations of wildlife in the Southern Ocean including four species of penguin. We plan at least two landings.

---

### ***Day 9 - 12 — At Sea***

Sea watching and lectures occupy our days. We keep a lookout for icebergs and cross the Antarctic Circle.

---

### ***Day 13 - 18 — Commonwealth Bay***

Our first landing on the remote East Antarctic coastline will be Cape Denison, Commonwealth Bay. Notoriously known as the 'home of the blizzard.' Here we will see (and experience) Mawson's Hut

and its environs which include other relics from the 1911-14 expedition and Adelie Penguins. West from Cape Denison is the French Research Base, Dumont D'Urville which, if permission is granted and ice conditions permit, we will visit. There is also an Emperor Penguin colony nearby. Breeding season will be over but there could be birds around. Other landings could include Port Martin (abandoned French Base) and the McKellar Islands. We will also cruise in the Zodiacs looking for wildlife.

---

#### *Day 19 - 22 — At Sea*

Time for rest, recaps, lectures and pelagic bird spotting.

---

#### *Day 23 - 24 — Campbell Island*

Landings to explore the home of the magnificent Southern Royal Albatross and beautiful megaherbs.

---

#### *Day 25 — At Sea*

Relax, reflect and recap.

---

#### *Day 26 — Invercargill*

Disembark in the Port of Bluff and transfer to hotels and airport.

---

Please note a decision on whether this expedition will operate will be made early April 2015. If it is postponed because ice conditions have not changed significantly, a full refund of any deposits paid will be made. But book now to ensure your participation.