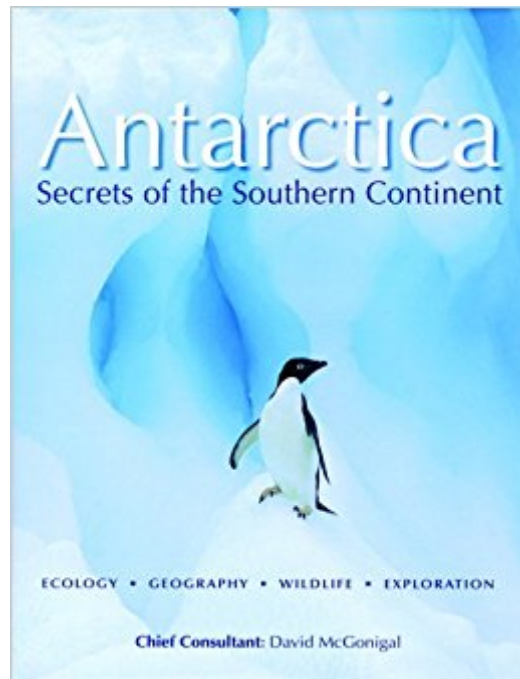




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Antarctica: Secrets Of The Southern Continent



Synopsis

The geology, ecology and biology of the "continent for peace and science." This comprehensive, fully illustrated and reader-friendly book honors the International Polar Year (2007-08) with a spectacular range of information on Antarctica and the Antarctic Islands, the world's harshest environment. Antarctica features up-to-date material from an expert team of scientists, expeditioners and historians. Included are more than 600 photographs, illustrations and maps. Among the topics covered are: Prehistory of Antarctica Geology and geography Flora and fauna Climate and the nature of ice The Antarctic ozone hole The explorers Current scientific research Conservation issues The impact of global warming The Sub-Antarctic Islands. Detailed information is found on current issues of land, law and treaties, shipping, resource exploitation, and tourism. Also included are the Antarctic Treaty, a gazetteer and a bibliography. Front-page news reports cover the relative health of Antarctica. This authoritative book could not be timelier.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review Ninety percent of the world's ice is found in Antarctica. However, the southernmost continent, centered on the South Pole, is more than just ice, as this beautiful new book attests. McGonigal, a travel writer who has made more than 100 trips to the polar regions, coordinated the contributions of a team of writers and scientists to produce what is arguably the best single volume on Antarctica available today. This massive book covers all aspects of the continent, including ecology, geography, wildlife, and exploration. Opening with a description of the polar regions and the science behind why they are cold, and how the Arctic differs from the Antarctic, the

text then delves into the geographic regions of Antarctica and their differing ecologies. The land, seas, and ice are home to one of the world's most famous animals, the penguins, which, along with other wildlife, are the subjects of a long section of the book. Early exploration and the scientific experimentation of today round out the text. Antarctica is the only continent not claimed by a sovereign nation, no wars have ever been fought there, and since 1959 the Antarctic Treaty has expressed that the continent will be used for only peaceful purposes (the full text of the treaty appears in an appendix). Sumptuously illustrated with photos, maps, and paintings, this will be the go-to reference on Antarctica for years to come. A truly superb production. --Nancy Bent

Arguably the best single volume on Antarctica available today.... Sumptuously illustrated with photos, maps, and paintings, this will be the go-to reference on Antarctica for years to come. A truly superb production. (Nancy Bent Booklist 2008-11-15) In typical Firefly Books mode, this volume blazes with stunning photographs and maps.... The scientific information is consistently well written for nonscholarly readers by contributing authors with academic and research backgrounds.... McGonigal has produced a lovely, up-to-date work primarily of interest to general readers.... Recommended. (L. S. Zipp, formerly, State University of New York Choice 2009-05-01) Selection, Best Reference Books, 2008 From albatrosses to brush-tailed penguins, from Amery to the South Shetland Islands, from early explorations of James Cook to the study of polar medicine, this is a rich resource about one of the least hospitable but most fascinating parts of the world. Travel writer McGonigal, who has made more than 100 journeys to the polar regions, and 23 experts on Antarctica here combine their talents to describe the region through text, color illustrations and maps. (Library Journal, Best Reference Books 2008 2009-04-15) Beautifully presented, well written and thorough, this big book (10 1/4 x 3 1/4) offers the general reader an in-depth look at the natural and human story of Antarctica, with lengthy sections on geography, climate, prehistory, flora, fauna, animals, birds, and exploration. The story of each party of explorers is told, with separate sections for each early explorer and his journey as well as for later discovery missions. A final chapter discusses topics concerning present-day Antarctica, including its political situation, tourism, pollution, and methods for habitation through the year. The volume is filled with excellent color and historic photos as well as many maps, charts, and drawings (Book News, Reference and Research Book News)

If you want a comprehensive overview of the most beautiful continent imaginable, this is the book for you. The photography is breathtaking, from massive icebergs to majestic mountains, from

comical penguins to soaring albatross, from seals to whales to sea lions all in their natural habitat. History, geology, geography, ecology, biology, botany, climatology -- there's nothing about Antarctica that isn't covered in this magnificent book. I'm in the process of writing my own (much smaller and less ambitious) book about the Southern Continent, featuring some of the hundreds of photographs I took there five years ago, so I'm awestruck at the achievements of the highly-qualified consultants and contributors who produced this book. Highly recommended, without reservation, by this reviewer who has been there.

I'm planning a trip to Antarctica soon and thought I was ordering a guide book.. I was so surprised to get this mammoth book! But after a few hours of pouring over it, I am so delighted to have it. Even though it weighs half a ton, I plan to bring it on our cruise for the great photos of plants, animals, history, and maps. Worth every penny, even if you don't take the bargain used book and pay full price for a new one.

In doing research for my fourth novel, I ordered this book to give me a visual 'feel' for the fifth largest continent on Earth. The photography is enthralling, the text accurate and incisive, the spirit unbeatable. I have never been to this 'alien' world on our own world, but found this book an inimitable introduction to Antarctica. I recommend the volume to anyone interested in the wondrous, vast diversity of environments on our planet, and in particular to the awesome reality of a place so different from the lives of most of us that it's almost a fantasy adventure to enter. A great encyclopedic addition to our knowledge of our own planet.

Beautiful book, very representative of the birds and mammals of the area. Having visited recently the pictures were great and the text provides an excellent summary of the wildlife. Great price and arrived promptly.

I am planning a trip to Antarctica, and this book was recommended by the tour company.. A good read, and supplement to my travels. Wonderful pictures!

Just the best, I've used this book in two university courses :)

I was fortunate to accompany David McGonigal to the Antarctic, saw a copy of his book and HAD TO HAVE IT! It is a great reminder of this fantastic continent! Evelyn Funk

Great book.

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