

南極：旅遊業最後的一片淨土

Antarctica: The last tourism frontier

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南極洲與位處亞熱帶緯度地區의香港相距甚遠，大多數香港人都沒有前去觀光的機會，這未始不是憾事。南極的面積約有一千四百萬平方公里，是澳洲的兩倍，百分之九十八被層層冰雪覆蓋，全球百分之七十的淡水就儲藏在這些冰雪裡。在七大洲之中，南極洲最高、最冷、最乾，也最難到達。

南極洲的內陸可謂極地「沙漠」，沒有任何生物，但在十一月至三月的南半球夏季期間，部份海岸和離岸島嶼卻成了眾多野生動物的繁殖地和棲息所。在這裡不僅有企鵝(主要是阿德利企鵝(Adélie penguin)、帽帶企鵝(chinstrap penguin)、巴布亞企鵝(gentoo penguin))，有飛翔的海鳥(如巨鸕(giant petrel)、雪鸕(snow petrel)、賊鷗(skua))，還有韋德爾氏海豹(Weddell seal)、南極毛皮海豹(Antarctic fur seal)、象海豹(elephant seal)、豹海豹(leopard seal)。不過，這裡並沒有北極熊，要找牠們就要去地球的另一極才行。

南極向來都沒有本土人口，唯一的「永久」居民，是在四十多個科學考察站中做研究的科研人員以及支援他們的職員。這裡沿岸並沒有任何旅遊基礎建設，也就是說旅客別指望可找到郵輪碼頭、購物商場、夜市、酒吧、餐廳等等。

要往南極旅遊，多數都經由海路，但也可由澳洲和智利坐飛機在空中觀光，不過航班卻並不多。一九六六年，南極旅遊的先驅拉斯—埃里克·林德布萊德(Lars-Eric Lindblad)領著九十四名乘客，穿過波濤洶湧的德雷克海峽(Drake Passage)直抵南極半島；由這時開始，定期的商業郵輪服務才算起步。烏斯懷亞(Ushuaia)以南一千公里就是南極半島，這裡是全球最南面的城市，座落於阿根廷的火地島(Tierra del



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往南極一遊，旅客將有反思人生的機會。

Antarctica provides the traveller with the opportunity to reflect.

The Antarctic continent is a long way from the sub-tropical latitudes of Hong Kong and most local people will unfortunately not have the opportunity to visit it. It covers nearly 14 million km², twice the size of Australia, and 98% is covered by a thick layer of ice that makes up 70% of the world's fresh water reserves. Antarctica is the highest, coldest, driest and remotest of all the continents.

The interior is a polar desert devoid of life, but during the southern summer between November and March parts of the coastline and the offshore islands become breeding and resting grounds for a profusion of wildlife. Penguins (mainly Adélie, chinstrap and gentoo), flying seabirds including giant petrels, snow petrels and skuas as well as Weddell, Antarctic



南極半島上的巴布亞企鵝與嗷嗷待哺的雛鳥。
Gentoo penguin and hungry chick, Antarctic Peninsula.

Fuego)，人口六萬，是經海路前往南極的重要門戶，百分之九十以上的南極航程都由這裡的港口出發，現在每天都有幾班直航班機或只停一站的班機由布宜諾斯艾利斯飛抵這裡。

多數郵輪航程都在十天至十四天之間，其中有四、五天要用來穿越經常都風浪大作的德雷克海峽。前往南極的郵輪，大小不一，豪華簡樸俱備，本身就是自給自足的海上酒店。要去南極的話，挑選郵輪時務須小心，因為有些大型郵輪不會安排乘客登岸，那樣一來，想給企鵝拍照的乘客難免會大失所望了。南極並沒有甚麼港口設施可言，要由郵輪登岸的話，就要轉乘一種稱為「Zodiac」的充氣橡皮筏；由於登岸時往往會弄濕雙腳，所以乘客和船員都要穿上橡皮靴登岸。

南極的旅遊活動只限於南半球夏季的幾個月內，這時候浮冰較少，使船隻能駛近岸邊。全球暖化日趨嚴重，目前因海冰而去不到的地方，今後或能坐船抵達，航程也就能去到更偏

fur, elephant and leopard seals can be found. No polar bears live here — they can be found at the other end of the world, in the high Arctic.

Antarctica has never had an indigenous human population and the only “permanent” residents are the scientists, who conduct research in the more than 40 scientific research stations, and their support staff. No tourism-specific shore infrastructure exists and this means that there are no cruise terminals, shopping centres, night markets, pubs or restaurants for tourists to visit.

Antarctic tourism is primarily cruise-based tourism but limited overflight services are available from Australia and Chile.

Regular commercial cruising began in 1966 when Antarctic tourism pioneer Lars-Eric Lindblad took 94 passengers across the stormy waters of the Drake Passage to the Antarctic Peninsula, 1,000 km south of Ushuaia, the southernmost town in the world on Tierra del Fuego, Argentina. Ushuaia has developed into the premier gateway for voyages to Antarctica and the city of 60,000 inhabitants is now accessible several times a day by non-stop or one-stop flights from Buenos Aires. Its port handles upwards of 90% of all Antarctic voyages.

Most cruises last between 10 and 14 days, of which four to five days are spent crossing and re-crossing the Drake Passage where rough seas can regularly be encountered. Antarctic cruise-ships are self-contained floating hotels varying significantly in size and luxury. **Potential passengers are advised to select their vessel carefully since some of the large vessels do not land passengers**, a fact that will lead to disappointment if passengers expect to go ashore to take pictures of penguins. Since there are no port facilities in Antarctica, ships rely on Zodiacs (inflatable rubber dinghies) to transport passengers ashore and as a result most landings are “wet” landings requiring passengers and staff to wear rubber boots.

Tourism activities are restricted to the southern summer months when the region is relatively ice-free, allowing vessels to approach the coast. As the effects of global warming are increasingly felt, areas that are currently inaccessible because of sea-ice conditions may

由橡皮筏上觀看鯨魚是畢生難忘的經驗。

Whale watching from Zodiacs is an unforgettable experience.



遠的新地區了。

去南極旅遊，就只去那麼幾個地點而已，這包括南極周邊的島嶼，如南喬治亞島(South Georgia)、福克蘭群島、澳洲的麥夸里島(Macquarie Island)、新西蘭南面的坎貝爾群島(Campbell island groups)和奧克蘭群島(Auckland island groups)；有個別船隻也會駛進羅斯海(Ross Sea)去。

百分之九十五以上的旅遊活動集中於南極半島，那裡西岸附近的島嶼最多人參觀，尤其是南設得蘭群島(South Shetland Islands，包括企鵝島(Penguin Island)、喬治王島(King George Island)、利文斯頓島(Livingston Island)、假象島(Deception Island))。多數旅客都想在南極登岸，因為那樣才算是到了第七大洲一遊。登岸的地點多在尼庫港(Neko Harbour)、天堂港(Paradise Harbour)或布朗崖(Brown Bluff)。

由海路經布蘭斯菲爾德海峽(Bransfield Strait)和傑拉許海峽(Gerlache Strait)前往南極的話，可看到世上最壯麗的冰寒景色。南極半島一帶的航程，大多以穿越勒美爾水道(Lemaire Channel)為高潮(在旅客還用膠卷拍照的年代，這個水道被戲稱為柯達膠卷峽(Kodak Gap))，因為這裡可看到冰封的海面上拔起的一座座冰山。如同南極的其他地方一樣，能不能穿過這個水道取決於冰和風的狀況。

旅客人數

根據國際南極旅遊經營者協會(International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators，以下簡稱「南極旅協」，網址：www.iaato.org)公佈的統計數字(見下圖)，在過去十五個季度中，往南極旅遊的人數不住上升。

南極旅協今年公佈了二零零六至零七年年度的最新統計數字，從中可略知南極旅客的概況：

- 九百零八人參加了陸上探險活動。
- 二萬四千四百七十人乘船在《南極條約》地區登岸，當中包括：
 - 二萬三千五百四十五人在南極半島地區登岸；

become accessible to cruise vessels in the future, thus opening up new but also more distant cruising regions.

Antarctic tourism is highly concentrated in only a few locations around the continent. Limited tourism takes place on the peri-Antarctic islands of South Georgia, Falkland Islands, Macquarie Island of Australia as well as the Campbell and Auckland island groups to the south of New Zealand, and a few cruise ships venture into the Ross Sea.

Over 95% of all tourism takes place in the Antarctic Peninsula. Some of the most visited sites are located on the islands off the west coast of the Peninsula, in particular in the South Shetland Islands (Penguin Island, King George Island, Livingston Island and Deception Island). Continent landings are popular with many tourists, who want to “collect” their 7th continent and landings are frequently made at sites such as Neko Harbour, Paradise Harbour or Brown Bluff.

The Bransfield and Gerlache Straits provide ocean access to some of the most magnificent cold climate scenery in the world. **The highlight of most cruises in the Peninsula region is the passage through the Lemaire Channel — in film days known as Kodak Gap — where high snow and ice-covered mountains rise out of the ice-covered ocean.** As in all other parts of Antarctica, passage through the Lemaire is subject to ice and wind conditions.

Tourist volumes

As the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO, website: www.iaato.org) statistics show (see Figure), **visitor numbers have increased substantially during the past 15 seasons.**

The latest available figures for the 2006/2007 season made available by IAATO this year provide the following profile of tourists:

- 908 clients participated in land-based expeditions.
- 24,470 passengers landed from seaborne vessels in the Antarctic Treaty Area. Of this total:
 - 23,545 passengers landed in the Antarctic Peninsula area;



乘客對勒美爾水道的旅程十分愜意。

Passengers enjoying the voyage through the Lemaire Channel.

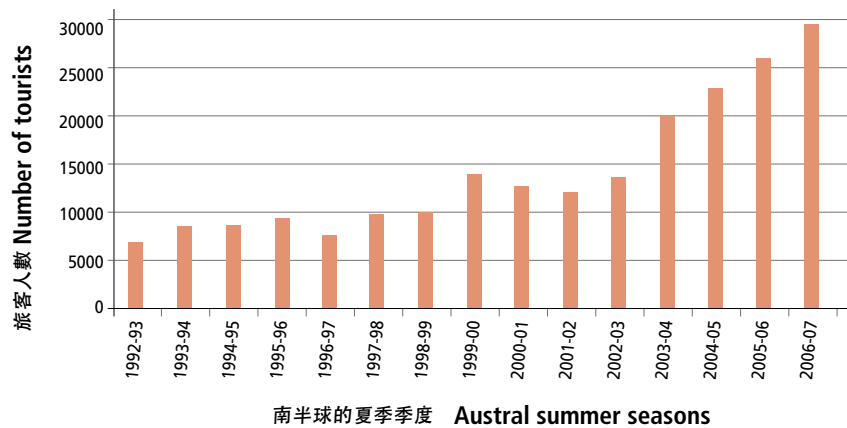
- 六百二十三人在羅斯海區域或南極大陸區域登岸；
- 一百二十八人在南極半島附近的海上乘坐小型或大型帆船；
- 一百七十四人坐船和飛機前往南極半島地區，即由南美坐飛機往喬治王島，再在那裡上船，航行六天，然後登岸。
- 六千九百三十人乘坐大型郵輪觀光，但並沒有在《南極條約》地區登岸。
- 三百六十人由南美坐飛機去南極半島地區上空觀光。
- 六百八十六人由澳洲坐飛機去南極上空觀光。
- 四千一百五十二人乘坐四艘 / 架並非由南極旅協會員營運的船隻 / 飛機，在南極半島地區登岸。

南極旅協今年估計，在二零零七至零八年度中，有三萬零九百一十五人經海路前往南極，並且登了岸，另有一萬三千九百六十人坐郵輪前往，但沒有登岸。由上述數字可知，對南極感興趣的人日益增加。全球的可動用收入整體上升，富經驗的旅客又熱中於找尋人跡罕至的新旅遊地點，再加上目前關於天氣變異的爭論，以及冰川溶解和冰架崩塌的影像，這些都使南極旅遊的需求不住上升。

魅力所在

旅客前往南極，可看到鯨魚、海豹、在空中飛翔的海鳥(如偉岸的漂泊信天翁(wandering albatross))，以及數以千計的企鵝。南極的野生動物和景致都獨一無二，是世上最荒僻的地方之一，在人類探險史上又非常重要，這些都是南極的魅力所在。最著名的南極探險家要數羅亞爾·阿蒙森(Roald Amundsen)、道格拉斯·莫森(Douglas Mawson)、羅伯特·福爾肯·斯科特(Robert Falcon Scott)、歐內斯特·沙克爾頓

圖：1992-2007年季度在南極登岸的旅客人數
Figure: Antarctic tourist (landed) numbers, 1992-2007



資料來源：南極旅協
Source: IAATO

- 623 passengers landed in the Ross Sea or continental region of Antarctica;
- 128 passengers sailed aboard small sailing vessels and/or yachts off the Antarctic Peninsula;
- 174 passengers participated in air/cruise voyages to the Antarctic Peninsula area and flew from South America to King George Island to embark on a vessel and sail for six days, making landings.
- 6,930 passengers travelled aboard large cruise vessels that were cruise-only (and did not land in the Antarctic Treaty Area).
- 360 passengers participated in overflights from South America to the Antarctic Peninsula area aboard aircraft.
- 686 passengers participated in overflights to Antarctica from Australia.
- 4,152 passengers travelled aboard four non-IAATO-operated vessels or aircraft, landing passengers in the Antarctic Peninsula area.

IAATO estimates this year that during the 2007/08 season, 30,915 passengers participated in seaborne tourism that involved landings and that another 13,960 passengers went to Antarctica on cruises that did not make landings. The above figures clearly show that there is an increasing interest in visiting Antarctica. Apart from a general increase in disposable incomes and an urge by sophisticated travellers to seek out new, unexplored destinations, the current debate on climate change and the images of melting glaciers and disintegrating ice shelves also contribute to the increases in demand.

Attractions

Visitors can expect to see whales, seals, flying sea birds such as the majestic wandering albatross and thousands of penguins. **They are attracted to Antarctica because of its unique wildlife and scenery, its remote-**

(Ernest Shackleton)。在他們所建的探險小屋之中，阿蒙森的小屋本來在羅斯冰架(Ross Ice Shelf)之上，但後來漂出了大海，其餘小屋則仍在羅斯海那一區內，可供旅客參觀。

南極旅遊另一吸引人的地方，是參觀還在運作的科學考察站。最受歡迎的考察站是洛克羅伊港(Port Lockroy，先前是英國的基地，現在重修後成了郵局兼旅客中心)、烏克蘭的維納德斯基研究基地(Vernadsky Research Base)、阿根廷的埃斯佩蘭薩基地(Base Esperanza)和美國的帕默站(Palmer Station)。旅客去考察站參觀的話，不僅可約略知道那裡正在做甚麼研究，還可看看考察站內的生活。

南極是地球上最後一片遼闊而杳無人煙的淨土，能往那裡遊覽甚具精神價值，吸引得很。很多旅客由南極回來後，都成了那裡的保育大使，甚至連環保意識都提高了。筆者正是這樣，去過南極很多次之後，受到感召，於是買下了昆士蘭的一個雨林加以保育。

南極旅遊的管理

南極與全球其他大陸都不同，主權並不屬於任何國家。不錯，阿根廷、澳洲、智利、法國、新西蘭、挪威、英國都宣稱擁有部份主權，但全都未獲公認。《南極條約》一九六一年生效，以此為核心的「南極條約體系」(Antarctic Treaty System)，正是目前管理南極的依據。至於**旅遊管理方面**，則主要靠《關於環境保護的南極條約議定書》(Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty)(又稱《馬德里議定書》(Madrid Protocol))；根據當中的規定，任何有計劃的人類活動都必須證明不會對環境有持久的影響。

除此之外，南極旅協的會員還制訂了準則給旅客與旅遊經營者遵守；這些準則其後並經《南極條約》各方確認，規定了旅客可多接近野生動物，以及在岸上的行為該怎麼樣。旅客只要坐的是南極旅協會員的船隻，就都要按規定參加簡介會，以瞭解到南極旅遊的守則。這些準則、守則能否起到作用，就要看旅客對它

ness and its historic significance in terms of human exploration.

The most well-known explorers are Roald Amundsen, Douglas Mawson, Robert Falcon Scott and Ernest Shackleton and, with the exception of Amundsen's hut which was located on the Ross Ice Shelf and has since drifted out to sea, their huts can still be visited in the Ross Sea sector of the continent.

Another attraction is a visit to a working scientific research station. The most popular stations to visit are Port Lockroy (a former UK base that is now restored and serves as a post office-cum-visitor centre), Vernadsky Research Base (Ukraine), Base Esperanza (Argentina) and Palmer Station (USA). Station visits provide tourists with a brief introduction to scientific activities that are carried out and with a glimpse of station life.

The spiritual value of visiting the last great and unspoiled wilderness on the planet is another attraction. Many visitors return from a voyage to Antarctica as ambassadors for the preservation of the continent and with a higher level of environmental consciousness. This is certainly what happened to this author who, after repeated visits to the Antarctica, was motivated to purchase a Queensland rainforest to protect it.

Management of Antarctic tourism

Unlike any other major landmass in the world Antarctica has no sovereign. Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom all have claims to parts of the continent but these claims are not universally accepted. The continent is administered under a system collectively known as the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS), which has its origins in the Antarctic Treaty of 1961. **Tourism management is largely regulated under the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty (Madrid Protocol) that requires that all planned human activities must show that they have no more than a transitory impact on the environment.**

In addition, IAATO members developed visitor and tour operator guidelines that were subsequently adopted by the Treaty Parties. These guidelines regulate how close passengers can get to the wildlife and provide instructions on how to behave while ashore. All passengers travelling on IAATO member vessels are required to attend a mandatory briefing session that explains the code of conduct. The implementation of guidelines or codes of conduct depends on the level of understanding that visitors have of these guidelines, their level of agreement with them and their willingness to comply with them and on the willingness of tour operators to enforce set guidelines.

The author has been to Antarctica many times as a guide, photographer, lecturer, researcher and Zodiac driver and from observation it is clear that tourists and tour operators comply with the guidelines and with the Antarctic Treaty recommendations. Beginning with Lars-Eric Lindblad the pioneer of Antarctic tourism and continuing with IAATO members, tour operators have been proactive in their measures to protect the resource on

們有多瞭解，有多認同，有多願意遵守，以及旅遊經營者有多大決心執行。

筆者以不同身份去過南極很多次，既當過導遊和攝影師，也曾是講師和研究員，甚至還駕駛過橡皮筏；就筆者所見，無論是旅客還是旅遊經營者，很明顯都遵守那些準則和《南極條約》的建議。由南極旅遊的先驅林德布萊德開始，一直到南極旅協的會員都沒有改變，那些旅遊經營者為了保護南極的環境，一向都採取積極主動的措施，因為那正是他們業務的根本所在。



一葉橡皮筏，面對由南極半島冰川滾滾落下的冰雪，顯得何其渺小。

A Zodiac is dwarfed by the masses of ice flowing down a glacier in the Antarctic Peninsula.

結語

南極堪稱世上最美之地，是獨一無二的旅遊地點。那裡與香港迢迢萬里，大多數人都並不熟悉，能去那裡觀光的人更是寥寥可數；儘管如此，南極卻是世人目光聚焦的地方。雖然南極的環境嚴酷，但商業性質的旅遊仍能發展起來，這實在有賴各方人士的緊密合作。**南極旅遊今後能否成功，不僅要看旅客是否滿意，還要看那裡的环境會否得到妥善保護。**要旅客滿意南極的旅程，又要旅程不致損害環境，旅遊經營者、《南極條約》各方以及旅客都必須繼續衷誠合作才行。

與南極旅遊有關的各方人士，全都展現出為後代保護這片美麗之地的承擔。這種緊密的合作將可確保南極旅遊不會日漸失色，並能給其他偏遠地方的旅遊管理起到出色的示範作用。**南極旅遊是世上管理得最妥善的旅遊模式，其他旅遊地點正該見賢思齊。** ㄟ

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which their business depend — the Antarctic environment.

Conclusion

Antarctica is the most beautiful part of the world and it is a unique tourist destination. It is a long way from Hong Kong and most people are not familiar with it and even fewer will have the opportunity to visit it; but Antarctica is of global significance. Commercial tourism has developed despite the harsh Antarctic environment but its conduct is only possible with the close cooperation between all parties involved. **The future success of Antarctic tourism will be measured by the satisfaction of visitors with their Antarctic voyage and by the protection that the Antarctic environment receives.** To maximise visitor satisfaction and environmental protection, it is imperative that the cooperation between tour operators, Antarctic Treaty Parties and tourists is continued.

All parties involved in Antarctic tourism have displayed a commitment to preserving the beauty of the Antarctic for future generations and this close cooperation will ensure that Antarctic tourism remains what it is today, an outstanding model for tourism management in the remotest corner of the world. **Antarctic tourism is the best managed tourism in the world and other destinations are encouraged to learn from it.** ㄟ

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