South: the Endurance Expedition – Ernest Shackleton

This astonishing memoir of Shackleton's final voyage explores courage, tenacity and unflagging hope in the face of adversity. South remains one of the greatest adventures of the twentieth century.

Sir Ernest Shackleton was a pioneer of Antarctic exploration. It was his final ambition to be the first to lead an historic expedition across the continent. Whilst attempting to cross the Weddell Sea, the Endurance became trapped in ice. Nine months later the ship was crushed, leaving Shackleton and his crew adrift on a massive ice floe. Shackleton tells how he and his crew crossed six hundred miles of ice and sea and landed on the desolate Elephant Island. From there, in an open boat, he and four others crossed the tempestuous sub-Antarctic Ocean, a distance of eight hundred and fifty miles, to reach South Georgia and help.

Endurance: Shackleton’s Incredible Voyage – Alfred Lansing

Bound for Antarctica, where polar explorer Ernest Shackleton planned to cross on foot the last uncharted continent, the Endurance set sail from England in August 1914. In January 1915, after battling its way for six weeks through a thousand miles of pack ice and only a day’s sail short of its destination, the Endurance became locked in an island of ice. For ten months the ice-moored Endurance drifted northwest before it was finally crushed. But for Shackleton and his crew of twenty-seven men, the ordeal had barely begun. It would end only after a miraculous journey through more than 850 miles of the South Atlantic’s heaviest seas to the closest outpost of civilization.

In Endurance, the definitive account of Shackleton’s fateful trip, Alfred Lansing brilliantly narrates the harrowing voyage that has defined heroism for the last century.

Mawson – Peter Fitzsimons

History comes to life in the story of Australia’s most famous polar explorer and the giants from the heroic age of polar exploration: Scott, Amundsen and Shackleton. As Mawson and his men make their home on the windiest place on earth and prepare for their own record-breaking treks, with devastating drama to be their constant companion, the stories of Amundsen and Scott similarly play out.

With his trademark in-depth research, Fitzsimons provides a compelling portrait of these great Antarctic explorers. For the first time, he weaves together their legendary feats into one thrilling account, bringing the jaw-dropping events of this bygone era dazzlingly back to life.
South: Scott and Amundsen’s Race to the Pole – Hunter Stewart

The race to reach the South Pole for the first time was an unparalleled adventure in the early twentieth century. South, by historian Hunter Stewart, chronicles the competition between two fierce rivals - Robert F. Scott and Roald Amundsen - to secure their place in history as the first man to lead an expedition to the most uninhabitable place on earth. South dramatically tells the story of the quest that is marked by heartbreak, greed, ego, and bravery - not only by Scott and Amundsen but by the courageous crews and financial backers who supported them. The journey to reach the South Pole was truly, as it was later called, "The Heroic Age of Arctic Exploration."

The Worst Journey in the World: Antarctica 1910-1913 – Aspley Cherry-Garrard

In 1910, hoping that the study of penguin eggs would provide an evolutionary link between birds and reptiles, a group of explorers left Cardiff by boat on Robert Falcon Scott’s expedition to Antarctica. Not all of them would return. Written by one of its survivors, The Worst Journey in the World tells the moving and dramatic story of the disastrous Scott expedition. Driven by an obsession for scientific knowledge, these brave polar explorers embarked on a journey into the unknown, testing their endurance by pushing themselves to the ultimate physical and mental limits as they surveyed the striking and mammoth land that lay far to the south. Their goal was to discover as much as was scientifically possible about the terrain and habitat of Antarctica, and to be the first to reach the South Pole. The party was plagued by bad luck, weather conditions of unanticipated ferocity, and the physical deterioration of the party itself on the last part of the journey.

Scott of the Antarctic – David Crane

David Crane has given us the definitive biography of one of Britain’s greatest heroes and explorers.

‘It seems a pity, but I do not think I can write more...For God’s sake look after our people.’ These were the final words written in Scott’s diary on 29 March 1912, as he lay dying in his tent with Birdie Bowers and Edward Wilson. Oates had taken himself into a blizzard a few days before, and the fifth member of the Polar party, Edgar Evans, had died some ten days previously, worn out by the cold and physical effort of the journey across Antarctica.

Written with the full support of Scott’s surviving relatives, this definitive biography sets out to reconcile the very private struggles of the man with the very public life of extremes that he led.

On January 17, 1913, alone and near starvation, Douglas Mawson, leader of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition, was hauling a sledge to get back to base camp. The dogs were gone. Now Mawson himself plunged through a snow bridge, dangling over an abyss by the sledge harness. A line of poetry gave him the will to haul himself back to the surface.

Mawson was sometimes reduced to crawling, and one night he discovered that the soles of his feet had completely detached from the flesh beneath. On February 8, when he staggered back to base, his features unrecognizably skeletal, the first teammate to reach him blurted out, “Which one are you?”

This thrilling and almost unbelievable account establishes Mawson in his rightful place as one of the greatest polar explorers and expedition leaders.

Through the First Antarctic Night – Frederick Albert Cook

Frederick Albert Cook (1865 – 1940) was an American explorer, physician, and ethnographer, noted for his disputed claims of having been the first to reach the North Pole in 1908. Cook is also noted for his disputed claim of being the first to ascend Mt. McKinley. Before all this controversy, in 1898 Cook participated in a ground-breaking Belgian expedition to the Antarctica.

This is Cook’s account of the voyage of the Belgica, under the command of Adrian Gerlache, who explored and named many of the features along the western coast of the Peninsula.

The Last Place on Earth – Roland Huntford

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the South Pole was the most coveted prize in the fiercely nationalistic modern age of exploration. In the brilliant dual biography, the award-winning writer Roland Huntford re-examines every detail of the great race to the South Pole between Britain’s Robert Scott and Norway’s Roald Amundsen. This account of their race is a gripping, highly readable history that captures the driving ambitions of the era and the complex, often deeply flawed men who were charged with carrying them out.

Antarctic Wildlife is a reference guide to more than 120 of the most common species of marine birds, whales, seals, fishes and marine invertebrates found in this remote region. Beautiful illustrations and detailed descriptions highlight the distinguishing features of the familiar species eco-tourists are most likely to see on land and at sea during their visit. This guide is an excellent source of portable information and ideal for field use.

A Wildlife Guide to Chile: Continental Chile, Chilean Antarctica, Easter Island, Juan Fernandez Archipelago - Sharon Chester

This is the first comprehensive English-language field guide to the wildlife of Chile and its territories—Chilean Antarctica, Easter Island, Juan Fernández, and San Félix y San Ambrosio. From bats to butterflies, lizards to llamas, and ferns to flamingos, A Wildlife Guide to Chile covers the country’s common plants and animals. The color plates depict species in their natural environments with unmatched vividness and realism. The combination of detailed illustrations and engaging, succinct, and authoritative text make field identification quick, easy, and accurate. Maps, charts, and diagrams provide information about landforms, submarine topography, marine environment, climate, vegetation zones, and the best places to view wildlife. This is an essential guide to Chile's remarkable biodiversity.
The Race to the White Continent – Alan Gurney
Gurney captures the fanfare, ego and discovery of 19th Century polar exploration in this compelling narrative of the 1837-1842 Antarctic voyages of Dumont d’Urville, James Clark Ross and Charles Wilkes.

Ordeal by Ice - Rorke Bryan
Encircled by some of the world’s most dangerous waters, Antarctica remains an aspiration for every explorer with their success and failure often determined but the greatness of their ship. The explorer’s vessel must sail unknown territory and overcome waters filled with pack ice and violent storms. Ordeal by Ice describes how these vessels were often chosen from anonymity or in some cases specifically designed and how they would go on to discover the continent. Published to coincide with the centennial of Scott and Amundsen’s attainment of the South Pole.

Antarctica: The Blue Continent – David McGonigal & Lyn Woodworth
A masterful, generously illustrated primer on everything Antarctic with hundreds of photographs, an especially good regional overview, glorious full-colour maps and a nice section on wildlife.
**Antarctica – Paper books**

**The Crystal Desert** – David Campbell
A splendid, prize-winning portrait of Antarctica, the land and its history and especially its marine life. Written with authority and love, Campbell’s vivid essays on fossils, glaciers, history and wildlife of the Antarctic Peninsula are an excellent introduction to the area.

**The Nature of Penguins** – Jonathan Chester
Expedition leader, author and photographer Jonathan Chester presents a beautiful collection of full-colour penguin photographs along with accompanying essays.

**Antarctica, The Global Warning** – Sebastian Copeland
Copeland’s atmospheric, full-page photographs of ice, mountains and sea are glorious – and his argument that Antarctica is a barometer of climatic change is timely.

**The Ferocious Summer, Palmer’s Penguins and the Warming of Antarctica** – Meredith Hooper
Hooper brings to life the thrill, perils and complexity of Antarctica fieldwork, documenting in vivid detail Bill Fraser’s decades-long work on the Adelie penguins in the vicinity of Palmer Station on the Antarctica Peninsular.
Penguins of the World – Wayne Lynch
In this handsomely produced book, photographer, naturalist and expedition leader Wayne Lynch interweaves stories of penguins, their biology and ecology, along with hundreds of colour photographs. Much of the book focuses on the penguins of the Antarctic Peninsula, Falklands and South Georgia.

Birds & Mammals of the Antarctic – Frank Todd
Polar pioneer, penguinologist and popular lecturer Frank Todd covers all the marine mammals and birds of the Southern Ocean in this gloriously illustrated compact field guide. Each species gets several colour photographs, dramatically presented, alongside key features and distribution notes. Frank Todd’s experience – and collection of photographs – is legendary (though even he admits sorting out all those prions, diving-petrels and other tubenoses is nearly impossible).

Antarctica, A Guide to the Wildlife – Tony Soper
Designed for the field this compact handbook features all the species of birds, seals and whales the traveller is likely to encounter on a voyage to Antarctica. It includes concise essays on each species, range maps and masterful colour drawings by Dafila Scott, the grand-daughter of Captain Scott. This handy field guide is written by a veteran expedition leader, Tony Soper, who is as congenial as he is mad about birds.