

RACE TO THE END OF THE EARTH

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Organized by the American Museum of Natural History in New York, in collaboration with the Royal BC Museum and the Musée des Confluences in Lyon, France.

Media images available by contacting: news@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca or calling 250-387-3207

Fram cup

Aboard Amundsen's ship the *Fram*, an egalitarian spirit ruled. Regardless of rank, each man had his own cabin, decorated to his own taste. The men all ate and drank together using enamel dishes and cups labeled with the ship's name. © AMNH/C. Chesek



Scott with team at the South Pole

British expedition members Edward A. Wilson, Robert F. Scott, Edgar Evans, Lawrence Oates, and Henry Robertson Bowers, photographed at the South Pole in front of Roald Amundsen's "Polheim" tent. © AMNH Library



Emperor penguin diorama

This diorama features "the worst journey in the world," Apsley Cherry-Garrard's evocative name for the dangerous five-week expedition he undertook with Dr. Edward Wilson and Birdie Bowers in the heart of the austral winter of 1911. Their sole purpose was to collect eggs of the largest of all penguin species alive today, the emperor penguin, for scientific study and analysis.

© AMNH/D. Finnin



Amundsen's Chronometer, Amnh 48

Amundsen and his men brought nine chronometers—very accurate timepieces—with them, including six watches like the one shown. This particular chronometer belonged to Amundsen. Explorers and mariners use chronometers to help determine their exact location. © AMNH/C. Chesek



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Amundsen's shotgun

No land wildlife lives permanently in Antarctica, though seals, penguins, and other birds return to the coasts to mate or molt. Both the Norwegian and British teams sometimes shot wildlife to feed themselves and their dogs. This shotgun belonged to Amundsen. © AMNH/C. Chesek



Amundsen sledge

Sledges were crucial — they carried the men's food, fuel, clothing, and sleeping bags. This sledge belonged to Amundsen's team; Scott's sledges were nearly identical. For the voyage to the Pole, this 11.4-foot (3.5 meter) sledge would be loaded with a whopping 668 pounds (303 kilograms) of food, including heavy loads of dried meat (pemmican) and cocoa, 5,300 biscuits, and 372 rations for the dogs. © AMNH/C. Chesek



Amundsen Binoculars

These binoculars likely went with Roald Amundsen to the Pole. Inscriptions on the faceplate list where and when some of his accomplishments took place — such as being the first to travel the Northwest Passage (1904-06), the second to the Northeast Passage (1918-1922), and first to the South Pole (1911). © AMNH/C. Chesek



An Ancient Reptile

This beautifully preserved specimen is a fossil reptile relative called *Procolophon trigoniceps*, found in 240-million-year-old sediments exposed along the Shackleton glacier of Antarctica. Fossils of an essentially identical species also occur in South Africa — evidence that Africa and Antarctica were once connected. The presence of this animal in Antarctica is also evidence that the climate was once very different from that of today. Note the bones of its fingers; some experts think *Procolophon* was a digging animal. © AMNH/D. Finnin



Roald Amundsen portrait

Portrait of Roald Amundsen © AMNH Library



Amundsen on skis

Amundsen on skis © AMNH Library



Scott in hut

Scott in hut at Cape Evans, Antarctica, winter of 1911. Captain Robert F. Scott photographed in his quarters during the British Antarctic Expedition. © AMNH Library



Meares and his pennant at Captain Scott's last birthday dinner, June 6, 1911

Cecil H. Meares is seated, second from left. On the right, Meares' pennant hangs third to the left of the standing man. Photo by Herbert G. Ponting. Courtesy of the Alexander Turnbull Library, NZ.



Scott on skis

Scott on skis near Cape Evans, 1911 Captain Robert F. Scott photographed during the British Antarctic Expedition. © AMNH Library



Scott with team

Scott with team at the South Pole Capt. L. E.G. Oates, Lt. H. R. Bowers, Capt. Robert Falcon Scott, Dr. E. A. Wilson, and Chief Petty Officer Taff Evans, photographed at the South Pole in 1912. © AMNH Library



Man-hauling during Robert Falcon Scott's Expedition

Unlike Amundsen, who used dogs exclusively, Scott's exploration and scientific teams usually man-hauled their heavily-laden sledges, often over great distances.

© Bettmann/CORBIS



Scott's polar home

Captain Scott had to bring nearly everything he needed with him to the ice, including a pre-fabricated wooden hut to use as home base. Crowded into the hut's single spacious room were scientific laboratories, a kitchen, darkroom, and long dining tables, along with a player piano and bunks for the men. Heated by a coal stove, indoor temperatures hovered at 50 °F (10 °C), balmy by Antarctic standards. This life-sized re-creation includes Scott's study and three of his crew member's living spaces. © AMNH/D. Finnin



Amundsen's underground workrooms

During the winter, Amundsen's men dug an extensive network of tunnels and rooms under the snow, including a bathroom and even a sauna. This life-sized re-creation shows an underground workroom in which his crew was able to work on their expedition gear away from the extreme wind and cold outside. © AMNH/D. Finnin



Close-up of sledge in underground re-creation

Sledges were crucial means of transport for polar explorers and carried the men's food, fuel, clothing, and sleeping bags.

© AMNH/D. Finnin



Prefabricated igloo

This prefabricated igloo is a light and aerodynamic portable hut nicknamed “The Apple” that can be transported by helicopters and used in Antarctica as sleeping quarters, laboratory space, or emergency weather shelter. When in place, the structures are propped up with two-by-fours and anchored to the ground with cables so they cannot be flipped by the wind. © AMNH/D. Finni



Antarctica interactive map

This interactive map of Antarctica scans what lies below the ice and highlights ocean currents and weather systems. © AMNH/D. Finnin



Personality test

Visitors can take a personality test inspired by those used for actual expeditions to imagine how they might fare in an extreme environment over long periods of isolation. The test includes questions such as, “Research stations have energy and water conservation programs. Could you get by with only two, two-minute showers a week?” and “Winds of up to 185 mph (300 kph) have been clocked in Antarctica, and the sound is intense. Would this bother you?” © AMNH/D. Finnin



Exhibition Entrance

Visitors enter an immersive soundscape simulating the icy, windswept landscape of Antarctica, complete with life-sized penguins. © AMNH/D. Finnin



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Cecil H. Meares' sledge pennant

This pennant belonged to team member Cecil Henry Meares, a world traveller who had purchased the dogs and ponies for Scott's team in the Russian Far East. In a tradition that started with British exploration of the Arctic, sledges flew colourful silk flags as the officers trekked over the ice. Symbols of meaning to each man were incorporated in the hand-crafted designs. On Meares' pennant, the St. George Cross is for England while the deep blue background symbolized loyalty and truth. The mermaid and motto, meaning "Trust to all Providence", is from Meares' family coat of arms. From the collection of the Royal BC Museum.



Lieutenant Robert Falcon Scott, ca. 1895

Royal BC Museum, BC. Archives C-03906



Cecil Henry Meares and dog Osman in Antarctica, August 28, 1911

Royal BC Museum, BC Archives F-05594



Kathleen O'Reilly, 1888

Royal BC Museum, BC. Archives C-03898



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