
Book review

Peter Carey and Craig Franklin
Antarctica Cruising Guide

Review by Janet Bradford-Grieve, Wellington

Antarctica Cruising Guide, in the words of the authors, 'is a primer to the wonders of Antarctica'. This book aims to be a handy reference for identifying wildlife and what to expect when you land. It covers the Antarctic Peninsula and, in this second edition, the Ross Sea, Falkland Islands and South Georgia. A brief introduction sets the big picture of Antarctica as a high-latitude location, its geology and the international political background. Information on geographic locations constitutes a major part of the book. Nature in Antarctica is introduced in general, including a brief treatment of organisms that are difficult to see from a ship. This is followed by sections on birds and mammals and includes details on 26 birds and 11 mammal species. Two pages are devoted to the most commonly seen species, including photographs and a list of facts and figures, as well as an easy to read narrative. A final section, on threats to Antarctic conservation, includes guidelines for visitors, as set out by Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting 1994. There are nine maps at the beginning, locating places mentioned in the text, and a glossary of unfamiliar terms at the end.

It is easy to see why *Antarctica Cruising Guide* is in demand. This book is very nicely laid out into easy-to-find sections with colour-coded tabs. The authors, Drs Carey and Franklin, are well qualified to write such a guide. Subjects are well chosen, guided by the needs of travellers, although the content is limited by the space available. The text is illustrated by 250 engaging, beautiful photographs. The logic of the order in which geographic loca-

tions are treated is not always apparent; nevertheless, the table of contents and an excellent index make it easy to navigate. Should they be lucky enough to go there, a traveller to the Antarctic will find *Antarctica Cruising Guide* an excellent first introduction to the Antarctic and a handy field guide.

Carey, Peter; Franklin, Craig 2009. *Antarctica Cruising Guide* 2nd edition. Awa Press, Wellington. 304 pp.
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