

ELY SUMM

Shackleton's Antarctic Visual Epic

THE BOSS, THE HERO, THE LEGEND, 1914



Sir Ernest Shackleton is from the heroic age of discovery; characterized by benchmark expeditions of geographical and scientific explorations to the Polar Regions. He had high aspirations, some not achieved. He wanted to be the first to reach the South Pole, the first to cross the continent, the first to circumnavigate an unknown continent where no man had ever gone before. And he set out without any of the benefits of modern navigational equipment or radio communication. However, his heroism is best celebrated for an expedition that he had never completed. On 5 December, 1914, Shackleton and his team of 27 explorers, comprising of English engineers, doctors, carpenters and an Australian Photographer Frank Hurley set sail on the *Endurance* for the Weddell Sea. The mission was to be the first to cross the Antarctic continent coast to coast via the South Pole. Instead the *Endurance* was beset on ice many miles from the Antarctic coast. Over several months the boat splintered from the pressure of the ice below and storms above. On 15 November, 1915, the *Endurance* was crushed and slipped beneath the ice. Stranded on the pack ice beyond all hope of rescue, the team was to endure the most inhabitable, windiest, and coldest place on earth, surviving on their dogs, penguins, seals and sea birds. For five months, Shackleton and his men camped on ice floes, marching on a desert of ice for over a 100 km. Finally on 9 April the ice floe that they were camped on

broke in two. Shackleton decided that the crew should enter the lifeboats and head for the nearest land. After seven days at sea in the three small lifeboats, the men successfully landed on the perilous coast of Elephant Island.

But the island was also an inhospitable place. It was far away any shipping lanes and thus a very poor location to wait for rescue. If they were to have any hope of survival, they had to move. On 24 April 1916 Shackleton takes five of his most able men in a tiny lifeboat and sets sail for South Georgia. South Georgia is a tiny island in the direct path of deep atmospheric depressions that roar through the Drake Passage between Terra del Fuego and Antarctica. Temperatures throughout the year average near zero. Miraculously they survived the 1300 km odyssey in an open lifeboat across the most treacherous of the world's oceans. Using only a sextant for navigation, they saw the sun twice in two weeks. The crossing was regarded in maritime history as the most amazing of sailing sagas. Landing on the wrong side of the island, the men then had to hike for 36 hours to Stromness, where they finally found help. After three attempts, finally on August 30th 1916 Shackleton accompanied the rescue boat that returned to pick up the rest of his crew, still stranded on Elephant Island. Not one man was lost. It was not the expedition that Shackleton had expected; but it was a legacy that he would proudly bear. The story of Shackleton's survival and subsequent rescue of his crew was hailed as the greatest epic adventure of the 20th century. His story has been told again and again, in our era in books, movies and exhibitions.



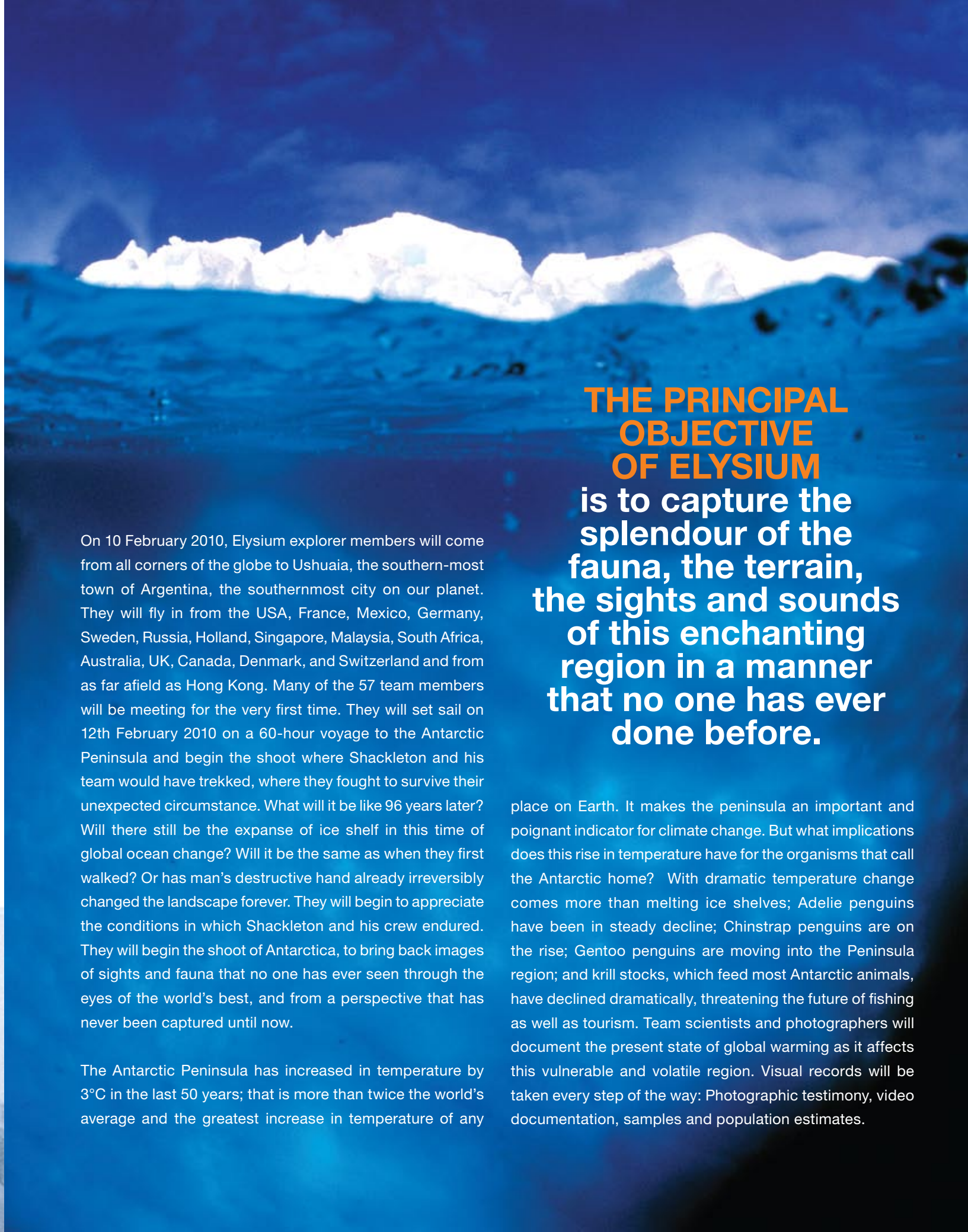
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**THE ELYSIUM EPIC:
A BENCHMARK EXPEDITION OF THE CENTURY,
THE FEAT OF EXTRAORDINARY EXPLORERS**

In 2010, an extraordinary expedition will set off to explore the land and water of ice and snow. On board is the most visually literate team of marine image-makers, historians, and scientists to ever come together in one vessel to the bottom of the world. They have been convened by project director Michael AW of the Ocean Geographic Society. Their mission is to scout, record, and express the fluid mysteries of the lingering past within this land of ice and snow –and to also capture a glimpse of the emerging future. Elysium Epic is about a team comprising of the world's best image makers and scientists using Advant Garde technologies to observe and document the elements; they will explore the route of Shackleton and his men after they lost the Endurance. The principal objective of Elysium is to capture the splendour of the fauna, the terrain, the sights and sounds of this enchanting region in a manner that no one have ever done before. But 2010 is also a surreptitious reconnaissance mission for greater adventures to come and as well as the initiation of ongoing imagery documentation of the final and most fragile wilderness on earth.

The 21st century team of explorers are some of the world's best wildlife photographers, film makers and marine scientists. The principal members are David Doubilet, photographer in residence of National Geographic, Titanic and deep sea vents discoverer Emory Kristof - also a National Geographic Photographer in residence. The team also includes BBC Wildlife photographer of the Year winners – Michael AW, Goran Ehlme, Amos Nachoum, eight-time World Underwater Pictures festival Winner Leandro Blanco and the master of black and white underwater imagery Ernest Brooks II, acclaimed as the Ansell Adams of the Sea, Nature's Best Wildlife Winner Jenny Ross, chief scientist Cabell Davis PhD from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, Steve Nichol, PhD of the Australian Antarctic Division, a specialist in the dynamics of Southern Ocean ecosystems, and fine-art artist Wyland, renowned as the Michelangelo of the Sea. Jonathan Shackleton, cousin of his legendary Irish forebear is also part of the lead team, on site to tell the story of Ernest Shackleton – revealing how the hero managed some spectacular feats against dire odds. He'll recount stories of the triumphing human spirit over daunting natural obstacles. And there are several others – 57 in all, comprising medical doctors, a geophysicist, a historian, an oceanographer, marine biologists, professional film makers and technical diving practitioners. This is, by any visual or scientific standard, the ultimate dream team.



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On 10 February 2010, Elysium explorer members will come from all corners of the globe to Ushuaia, the southern-most town of Argentina, the southernmost city on our planet. They will fly in from the USA, France, Mexico, Germany, Sweden, Russia, Holland, Singapore, Malaysia, South Africa, Australia, UK, Canada, Denmark, and Switzerland and from as far afield as Hong Kong. Many of the 57 team members will be meeting for the very first time. They will set sail on 12th February 2010 on a 60-hour voyage to the Antarctic Peninsula and begin the shoot where Shackleton and his team would have trekked, where they fought to survive their unexpected circumstance. What will it be like 96 years later? Will there still be the expanse of ice shelf in this time of global ocean change? Will it be the same as when they first walked? Or has man's destructive hand already irreversibly changed the landscape forever. They will begin to appreciate the conditions in which Shackleton and his crew endured. They will begin the shoot of Antarctica, to bring back images of sights and fauna that no one has ever seen through the eyes of the world's best, and from a perspective that has never been captured until now.

The Antarctic Peninsula has increased in temperature by 3°C in the last 50 years; that is more than twice the world's average and the greatest increase in temperature of any

place on Earth. It makes the peninsula an important and poignant indicator for climate change. But what implications does this rise in temperature have for the organisms that call the Antarctic home? With dramatic temperature change comes more than melting ice shelves; Adelie penguins have been in steady decline; Chinstrap penguins are on the rise; Gentoo penguins are moving into the Peninsula region; and krill stocks, which feed most Antarctic animals, have declined dramatically, threatening the future of fishing as well as tourism. Team scientists and photographers will document the present state of global warming as it affects this vulnerable and volatile region. Visual records will be taken every step of the way: Photographic testimony, video documentation, samples and population estimates.

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The expedition serves two purposes. The first is to connect to Shackleton. The second is to provide an in-depth scientific survey of the area as a reference to time for generations to come. Photographic surveys of organisms above and below the ice will yield many new visual wonders. Hopefully there will be as yet, unknown treasures. Photos and videos of penguins, seals and seabirds will be collated for a publicly accessible index. The team will attempt to land on Elephant Island. It's an enchanting, but notoriously difficult landfall to approach, due to its ice-covered mountainous terrain, dense fogs, icebergs and a lack of safe anchorage. Attempting to land on Elephant Island could prove to be too difficult or even fatal for the team. Throughout history just a handful of people have successfully landed on Elephant Island. Provided they survive their rendezvous with Elephant Island the team will then sail to South Georgia. After collecting, collating, experiencing, and embracing the wonders of Antarctica and Shackleton's journey, the explorers will aptly

land at Grytviken, where Shackleton's grave rest. Elysium Epic is a tribute to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Shackleton's Trans Antarctic Epic

The resulting objective of the expedition is to produce a feature documentary and a limited edition high quality Opus. The visual rendering of the film and collectors' book will have a spiritualistic treatment, to promote the beauty and conservation of Antarctica. While the film will be in an artistic non-verbal format - prose, quotes and scientific facts will complement the visuals. An original music score by multi award winning composer Eric Bettens will compliment the poetic film style bringing a concert of colour to the ballet of flora and fauna, including on-site recordings of the sounds of the Antarctic. In a collaborative celebration of the sea, the hauntingly and mysterious music and magnificent images will serve as a legacy for generations to come. Elysium is the Real deal: Convened on Planet Earth's final frontier for the expedition of the 3rd millennium.



JOIN THE ELYSIUM EPIC EXPEDITION

Indulge in the adventure with the explorers from 10.02.2010; daily log, blogs and images will be updated regularly to the expedition section at www.ElysiumEpic.org; send your encouragement, questions to the explorers, image makers and scientists via email or by SMS using the Iridium satellite service at no charge. See your queries published and answered on the website by the explorer members.

THE TEAM

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|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Aimee Johannsen | Ernie Brooks | Elstgeest |
| Amanda Cotton | Evelyn Cook | Martin Vavrek |
| Amos Nachoum | Fabienne Korchia | Michael AW |
| Anci Jigmo | Gillian Clark | Mickael Jigmo |
| Andreas Jaschek | Göran Ehlmé | Paul Jessett |
| Avila Alhay | Henry Yip | Peter Szyzka |
| Bartosz Strozynski | James Clark | Jorgen Rasmussen |
| Brian Daly | Jamie Watts | Ricky Wong |
| Cabell Davis | Jennifer Hayes | Sally Allen |
| Carl Brandes | Jenny Johannsen | Saw Huat Seong |
| Chris Chan | Jenny Ross | Steve Nichol |
| Craig Cook | Jicky Vogel | Stephen Henshall |
| David Borus | Jonathan | Steve Jones |
| David Doubilet | Shackleton | Stuart Ireland |
| Davide Vezaro | Ken Jenkims | Susan Eaton |
| Edward Dixon | Kim Jenkins | Toni Williamson |
| Elizabeth Quat | Kliment Kolosov | Wendy Mclroy |
| Emily Chan | Leandro Blanco | Wyland |
| Emory Kristof | Marlynda | |

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