

MEDIA RELEASE

AURORA EXPEDITIONS LAUNCHES NEW SHIP – SYLVIA EARLE



Inaugural Voyage to Antarctica: December 2022

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA (November 10, 2022) – Award-winning expedition travel company Aurora Expeditions has today launched its second purpose-built small ship, *Sylvia Earle*, which will embark on her inaugural voyage from Ushuaia, Argentina to Antarctica on December 10, 2022.

Named after the renowned marine biologist, oceanographer, explorer and conservationist Dr. Sylvia Earle, this state-of-the-art expedition ship will be a floating ambassador for the conservation of the planet.

“We are beyond thrilled to announce our newest ship, *Sylvia Earle*, is in the water and on her way to Antarctica,” says Aurora’s Chief Executive Officer, Michael Heath.

“We cannot wait to introduce her to our loyal trade and consumer partners worldwide and, of course, a new generation of global expeditioners in search of adventure, discovery and extraordinary life-changing experiences,” he adds.

With its strong focus on education and conservation, the new *Sylvia Earle* is designed to accommodate an average 132 passengers per voyage in a relaxed, fun and informal onboard setting.

Featuring the revolutionary Ulstein X-BOW®, an inverted bow designed for smoother and faster ocean crossings which helps to reduce fuel consumption, the ship offers stylish and comfortable staterooms and suites, most with private balconies.

Public spaces include multiple restaurants and bars, social relaxation and wellness areas, an outdoor heated swimming pool and Jacuzzis, a gym, spa and sauna, a library lounge, lecture theatre, and expansive decks offering panoramic views of wilderness and wildlife, making it the ideal ‘base camp’ for exploring.

Zodiac docks, a changing room and mudroom prepare passengers for off-ship and on-shore activities, while a dedicated Science Centre is the hub for a variety of participative and educational Citizen Science programs.

A highly experienced Expedition Team guides passengers in small groups on myriad excursions by water and land, with exciting activities ranging from Zodiac cruises to walks and hikes, sea kayaking, scuba-diving, snorkelling, paddling, skiing, photography and birdwatching, among others.

“Our goal is to immerse our expeditioners in some of the world’s most remote and fascinating places and, in doing so, create lifelong ambassadors for the planet,” says Chief Marketing Officer, Hayley Peacock-Gower.

“More than 30 years in the making, Aurora Expeditions has a track record for pioneering adventure and discovery – and respectful travel is at the core of our ethos,” she adds.

A sister ship to the *Greg Mortimer*, launched in 2019, the *Sylvia Earle* is named after one of the world’s leading ocean conservationists, the first female Chief Scientist of the US National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration.

Dr Earle is a *National Geographic* explorer-in-residence since 1998 and was named by *Time* magazine as its first ‘Hero of the Planet’. Her own conservation initiative Mission Blue is creating a global network of marine protected areas known as ‘Hope Spots’.

Each of the new ship’s decks is named after six other pioneering female conservationists – Jo Ruxton (MBE), Dr Carden Wallace (AM), Sharon Kwok, Bernadette Demientieff, Dr Asha de Vos and Hanli Prinsloo – with a deck dedicated to Dr Earle herself.

In February 2023, Dr Earle, in partnership with Ocean Geographic will lead a world-first ‘Antarctic Climate Expedition’ on the new ship to raise public and government awareness of the environmental importance of the Antarctic. This special voyage aims to deliver resolutions to inspire transformative changes for global net-zero emission by 2035 from an ocean perspective.

“Female scientists are leading the way in global conservation initiatives, and we want to honour these seven extraordinary women who work tirelessly to make the world a better place,” says Peacock-Gower.

“We invite you to ignite your curiosity, passion and care for the natural world, and join us on board the new *Sylvia Earle* for a true Aurora experience of a lifetime - and travel for good,” she adds.

** For more information on the new *Sylvia Earle* including departures, visit [here](#).

For more information, visit www.auroraexpeditions.com.au.

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Notes to Editors

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<https://library.aurora-expeditions.com/web/56252fc0741b2ddd/sylvia-earle-2022/>

About Aurora Expeditions

Aurora Expeditions is an award-winning, Australian-owned expedition company pioneering experiential travel for over 30 years. A pioneer in Polar Expeditions, Aurora is deeply committed to environmentally respectful travel to preserve the beauty and majesty that mother nature possesses, and we take real actions for the care of the planet.

Founded on the guiding principles of adventure and endless exploration, the small ship experience is intimate and friendly. Aurora Expeditions takes travellers on perspective-altering experiences to some of the most remote and incredible places on the planet.

Aurora's two purpose-built ships, *Greg Mortimer* and our brand-new small expedition ship *Sylvia Earle*, are designed for global discovery. Our new ship is named after acclaimed marine biologist, oceanographer, explorer and conservationist Dr Sylvia Earle.

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