



Experts gather at Antarctic tour operator annual meeting in Cape Town

International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) welcomes invited stakeholders from the Antarctic community

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Cape Town, South Africa:

The annual meeting of the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) today welcomed stakeholders from the Antarctic community with a vested interest in the responsible management of human activity on and around the white desert.

The three-day meeting in Cape Town, South Africa has drawn more than 150 IAATO member operators, government and Antarctic Treaty representatives, scientists, environmental organisations and charitable trusts.

Robyn Woodhead, IAATO Executive Committee and South African native, said “We are delighted to be hosting our annual general meeting in Cape Town, a long established and important gateway for Antarctica.

“This year we have welcomed our largest ever delegation, here to support IAATO’s mission to advocate and promote the practice of safe and environmentally responsible travel to Antarctica.”

Formed in 1991, IAATO’s commitment to furthering its mission and vision has drawn support from long government departments around the world, Antarctic Treaty Parties, scientists, environmentalists and other important polar partners, collectively facilitating the management of human activity on and around the white continent and sub-Antarctic islands.

Amanda Lynnes, IAATO Head of Communications and Environment, added: “Managing human activity in Antarctica to ensure the continent’s unique qualities are preserved is a huge collective effort requiring engagement with many stakeholders.

“Cape Town is a wonderful stage to host discussions and decision-making. With so many Antarctic-impassioned people in the room, we feel sure it will be a productive meeting.”



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IAATO is a member organization founded in 1991 to advocate and promote the practice of safe and environmentally responsible private-sector travel to the Antarctic.

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Issued by the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators.

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Notes for Editors:

- Images are available.
- In addition to its own bylaws and requirements for membership, IAATO requires its members to abide by the Antarctic Treaty System and other international regulations.

About IAATO

IAATO is a member organization founded in 1991 to advocate and promote the practice of safe and environmentally responsible private-sector travel to the Antarctic. IAATO Members work together to develop, adopt and implement operational standards that mitigate potential environmental impacts. These standards have proved to be successful including but are not limited to: Antarctic site-specific guidelines, site selection criteria, passenger to staff ratios, limiting numbers of passengers ashore, boot washing guidelines and the prevention of the transmission of alien organisms, wilderness etiquette, ship scheduling and vessel communication procedures, emergency medical evacuation procedures, emergency contingency plans, reporting procedures, marine wildlife watching guidelines, station visitation policies and much more. IAATO has a global network of over 100 members.