



## INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ANTARCTICA TOUR OPERATORS

320 Thames Street, Suite 264  
Newport, RI 02840 USA

+1 401 841 9700 OFFICE  
+1 401 841 9704 FAX

[iaato@iaato.org](mailto:iaato@iaato.org) | [www.iaato.org](http://www.iaato.org)

*A member organization founded in 1991 to advocate, promote and practice safe and environmentally responsible private-sector travel to the Antarctic*

### NEWS RELEASE

## **Antarctic Tour Operators Hold International Meeting in Newport**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 27 November 2015.

*Newport, Rhode Island, USA:* The International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) is pleased to announce that, for the first time, an international group of the association's members are congregating in its hometown of Newport from December 2-4, 2015 to discuss future strategies for IAATO's membership.

Many well known cruise and expedition cruise companies\* from IAATO's diverse 112-strong membership will be in attendance including globally renowned yachtsman Skip Novak who also sits on IAATO's Executive Committee.

Janeen Haase, Rhode Island resident and IAATO's Administrative Officer said, "we're delighted to be welcoming our members to Newport for this special meeting. Next year IAATO will celebrate 25 years of delivering its mission of advocating and promoting the practice of safe and environmentally responsible private-sector travel to Antarctica. This meeting will conduct a thorough review



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of the association's structure to make sure we're on track to meet our mission for the next 25 years."

IAATO's Office Manager Laura Goldstein from Portsmouth, RI, added, "It's also a great opportunity to talk about preparations for our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting next year which, we're thrilled to say, is also in Newport from 2-5 May. The annual meeting is one of the biggest events in IAATO's calendar and can be anywhere in the world. To bring the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting home to Newport is something we will be very proud of."

*\* Member operators in attendance at the December meeting include Abercrombie & Kent, Antarpply Expeditions, Eyos Expeditions, Holland America Line, Lindblad Expeditions, Oceanwide Expeditions, One Ocean Expeditions, Pelagic Expeditions, Ponant, Quark Expeditions, Royal Caribbean Cruises, Seabourn and Waterproof Expeditions. Vessels from the Seabourn and Holland America Line fleet make regular visits to Newport.*

ENDS

**Issued by the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators.**



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Contact: Amanda Lynnes, Tel: +44 (0)7879777036; email: [alynnes@iaato.org](mailto:alynnes@iaato.org)

### **Notes for Editors:**

IAATO produces an [annual information sheet](#) that includes the latest tourism figures and trends.

Images are available.

### **About IAATO**

IAATO is a member organization founded in 1991 to advocate, promote and practice safe and environmentally responsible private-sector travel to the Antarctic. IAATO currently has 112 members. IAATO Members work together to develop, adopt and implement operational standards that mitigate potential environmental impacts. Numerous guidelines have been adopted over the last 25 years that have proven to be successful methods in avoiding such impacts. These include but are not limited to: 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, garbage policy, ship scheduling and vessel communication procedures, emergency medical evacuation procedures, emergency contingency plans, reporting procedures, marine wildlife watching guidelines, station visitation policies and more.