



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.

July 2020

IAATO Antarctic visitor figures 2019-2020

IAATO's preliminary visitor figures for the 2019/20 season show that 74,401 visitors traveled with IAATO members to Antarctica between October 2019 and April 2020.

IAATO has been carefully monitoring, analysing and reporting Antarctic tourism trends since 1991 as part of its commitment to the effective self-management of guest activities.

Of the 74,401 visitors who travelled with IAATO members to the region, 18,506 travelled on cruise-only vessels and did not set foot on the continent, while 731 travelled to deep-field destinations by aircraft, 165 by yacht and 4,679 by air/cruise - travel programs with at least one flight in or out of King George Island, combined with a Peninsula cruise. Please see **Table 1** below for further detail on the different types of tourism in Antarctica.

IAATO maintains one of the most comprehensive databases on any human activity in Antarctica. Data, compiled by IAATO from mandatory Post Visit Reports submitted by its members, is presented each year to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM), to facilitate discussions on effective visitor management. IAATO has been an invited expert and representative for the Antarctic tourism industry at ATCMs since 1992.

Table 1: Overview of IAATO activities for the Antarctic season, 2019-2020

Type of Tourism	Number of Vessels	Number of Departures	Total Number of Passengers
IAATO Traditional Seaborne Tourism Peninsula	36	289	49,806
IAATO Seaborne Tourism Ross Sea / Continental	4	7	514
IAATO Sailing Vessels / Yacht Tourism Peninsula	12	23	165
IAATO Air-Cruise Peninsula	12	78	4,679
IAATO Large Ships / Cruise-Only Peninsula	6	11	18,506
IAATO Deep-Field Tourism	6 Operators	N/A	731

Antarctica receives relatively few visitors compared to other destinations, but its unique qualities require rigorous safeguards. IAATO's proven success in conscientious visitor



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management is the result of forward planning based on long-term understanding of the industry.

Part of this work involves the annual launch of the IAATO Ship Scheduler, a tool which uses IAATO and Antarctic Treaty System requirements to set limits on time, number of passengers allowed, and number of daily visits to visitor sites around the Antarctic coast for almost two decades.

IAATO works closely with governments, scientists, Antarctic Treaty Parties, environmental groups and other stakeholders to achieve the best outcomes for the continent's ongoing protection.

IAATO requires its members to abide by the Antarctic Treaty System. Tour operators refrain from making any landings in Antarctica from vessels carrying more than 500 passengers. They also coordinate with each other so that not more than one vessel is at a landing site at any one time, no more than 100 people are ashore at once and a staff to passenger ratio of at least 1:20 is maintained.

It is a condition of IAATO membership that IAATO operators are operating under a permit or authorization from an Antarctic Treaty Party or relevant government. As part of this process, they must also submit their Environmental Impact Assessment to IAATO ahead of the Antarctic season. If an IAATO organizer is registered in a country without the necessary legislation in place (i.e the country is not a Treaty Party or has not implemented the Environmental Protocol into their national legislation), the organizer must submit the equivalent documentation to the IAATO.

IAATO Committee and Working Group efforts throughout the year help our organization hone its policies and strategies to protect Antarctica while enabling Antarctic travellers to have an enriching, educational experience.

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- Stock 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 not limited to;

- Antarctic site-specific guidelines and site selection criteria;
- passenger to staff ratios and limiting numbers of passengers ashore;
- boot washing guidelines and the prevention of the transmission of non-native organisms;
- wilderness etiquette;
- ship scheduling and vessel communication procedures;
- emergency medical evacuation procedures and emergency contingency plans;
- reporting procedures;
- marine wildlife watching guidelines;
- station visitation policies.

IAATO has been carefully monitoring, analyzing and reporting Antarctic tourism trends since 1991 as part of its commitment to the effective self-management of guest activities. Every year at IAATO's annual meeting, members have open and candid discussions on safety, environmental protection and self-regulation. Decision-making is supported by recommendations developed by IAATO's many dedicated committees and working groups throughout the year. The meetings conclude annually with the voting in of new policies on best practice which support the association's mission.