Protecting the places that change us

aurora expeditions

Certified B Corporation

Impact Report 2025

Acknowledgement of country

We acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which Aurora Expeditions' headquarters is located.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia. We are deeply grateful for their knowledge, care and ongoing stewardship of Australia's coastlines, lands and diverse ecosystems since time immemorial.

We extend this respect to the Traditional Custodians of all lands and waters that we and our expeditioners explore.

Kamay (Botany Bay)

Contents

This report covers the period from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025.

Every expedition has a footprint. So, should we even be here?

It's a question we have asked ourselves since our first voyages in the early 90's.

We are acutely aware that Antarctica and the Arctic are among the world's last great wildernesses. Their raw, disarming beauty is shaped by extreme weather, enormous glaciers, incredible landscapes and unique wildlife. But the polar regions are also among the most vulnerable. Since we first travelled there, parts of the Antarctic Peninsula have warmed up to five times faster than the global average. These shifts are transforming ice, ocean systems and wildlife before our eyes.

However, we have observed on voyage after voyage that travel to extreme environments can be a powerful tool for conservation. When done responsibly, it has the potential to connect people with the natural world in ways that few other experiences can.

That connection is immediate and profound. Stepping ashore, passengers witness the vastness of the ice, the resilience of wildlife, the deep silence and the scale. These moments shift perspectives, spark curiosity and build a stronger understanding of what's at stake.

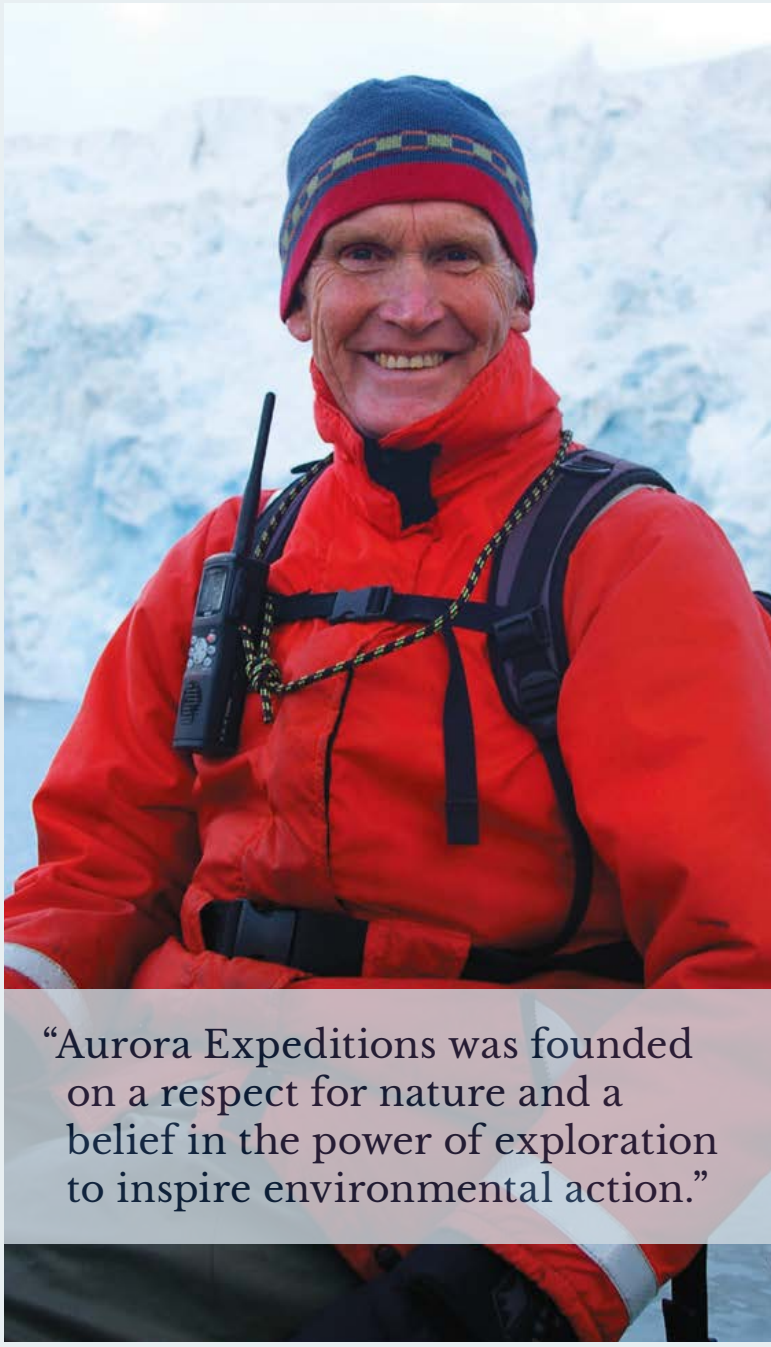
Aurora Expeditions was founded on a respect for nature and a belief in the power of exploration to inspire environmental action.

Education is central to every voyage. Our guides share knowledge and expertise through presentations, during landings and informal conversations. Through our Citizen Science Program, passengers also contribute to global research, helping to fill critical data gaps in regions where scientific access is limited and costly.

However, this is just the start of our potential to enact environmental change. The first step is to connect people to the power of nature through direct exposure to wilderness. This is our core business. The second step is for those people to spread the word of the importance of protecting wild places. This is well underway. The third and most challenging step is for our passengers to enact change in their own backyards, even ambitiously, to significantly reduce their environmental footprint. Aurora formally started on that path three years ago.

Going forward, we believe we have the potential to drop pebbles of environmental action into thousands of ponds in each and every year.

Greg Mortimer Founder



"Aurora Expeditions was founded on a respect for nature and a belief in the power of exploration to inspire environmental action."

We've been leaders in responsible expedition travel for 35 years

Since 1991, Aurora Expeditions has believed in a simple idea: that travelling to the world's most extraordinary places should care for our planet and give back to the communities that welcome us to their lands.

This report serves as a checkpoint on that journey, a moment to reflect on how this belief continues to guide our decisions, our partnerships, and our practices over the past year, and how it shapes the business we are building for the future.

We operate small, purpose-built ships, carrying no more than 130 passengers on our Expeditions and 154 passengers on our Small Ship Cruises. This ensures we minimise our footprint, avoid overcrowding, and uphold strict biosecurity and wildlife-distancing protocols that protect the fragile environments we explore.

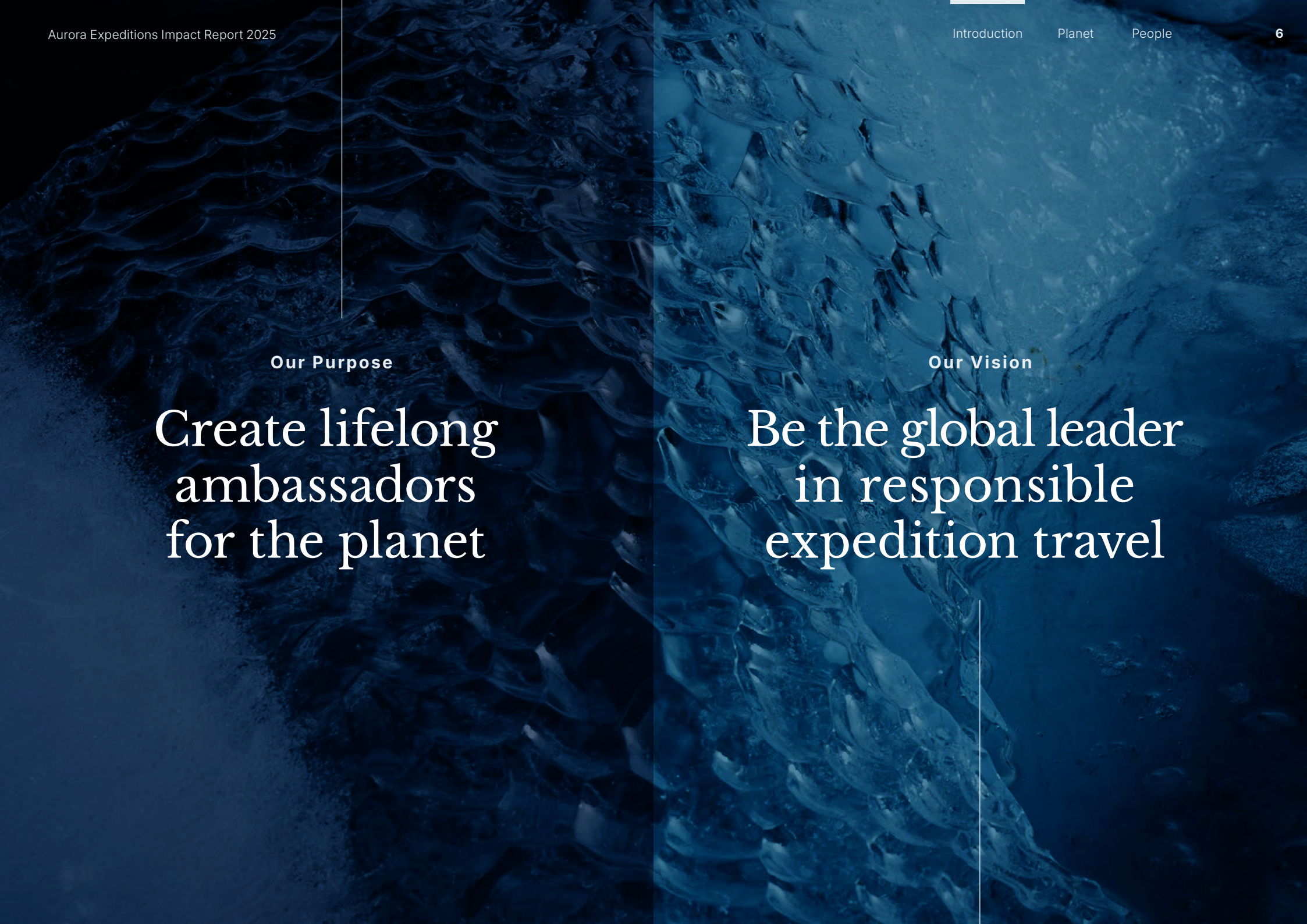
The year ahead will see us deepen our scientific and community collaborations. With the arrival of our third ship, the Douglas Mawson, and expeditions now reaching all seven continents, our commitment remains clear: to grow responsibly and never at the expense of our planet.

I am incredibly proud of the people who bring our purpose to life every day; our onshore and expedition teams who lead with care, our passengers who return home as advocates for the natural world, and the communities who share their stories and culture with us in a spirit of respect and exchange.

Thank you for being part of this journey, and for helping us protect the places we love; for today, and for the generations who will explore them next.

Michael Heath
CEO

"Our commitment remains clear: to grow responsibly and never at the expense of our planet."



Our Purpose

Create lifelong ambassadors for the planet

Our Vision

Be the global leader in responsible expedition travel

Sustainability highlights

B Corp™
Certification

7
Citizen Science projects supported

90%
approximate reduction in fuel-related emissions during marine biofuel trial

74,000
children in 195 countries have accessed Aurora's Upschool materials to date

4,716 kg
of ocean-bound plastic waste removal funded

$140k
(AUD) donated to conservation organisations

58
polar education courses filmed and produced with Upschool

4,716
units of new marine life funded

200+
expert explorers, environmental scientists and guides in our team

45%
women in senior leadership

$364k
(AUD) of in-kind expeditions for environmental scientists and researchers

$70k
(AUD) raised for polar conservation through onboard auctions

We are a certified B Corporation™ because we should have to jump through hoops to explore the world.

Being a B Corporation means that we exist to do more than make money.

It also means that doing good is built into our entire business and everyday ways of working. Becoming certified in January 2024 required a hard look at every part of our business. We had to prove that we walk our talk across governance, workers, community, the environment and customers. There were moments of honest reflection that drove us to do better (and there's still more to do).

Formal recertification every three years drives accountability, tracks our progress and helps us continually raise the bar.

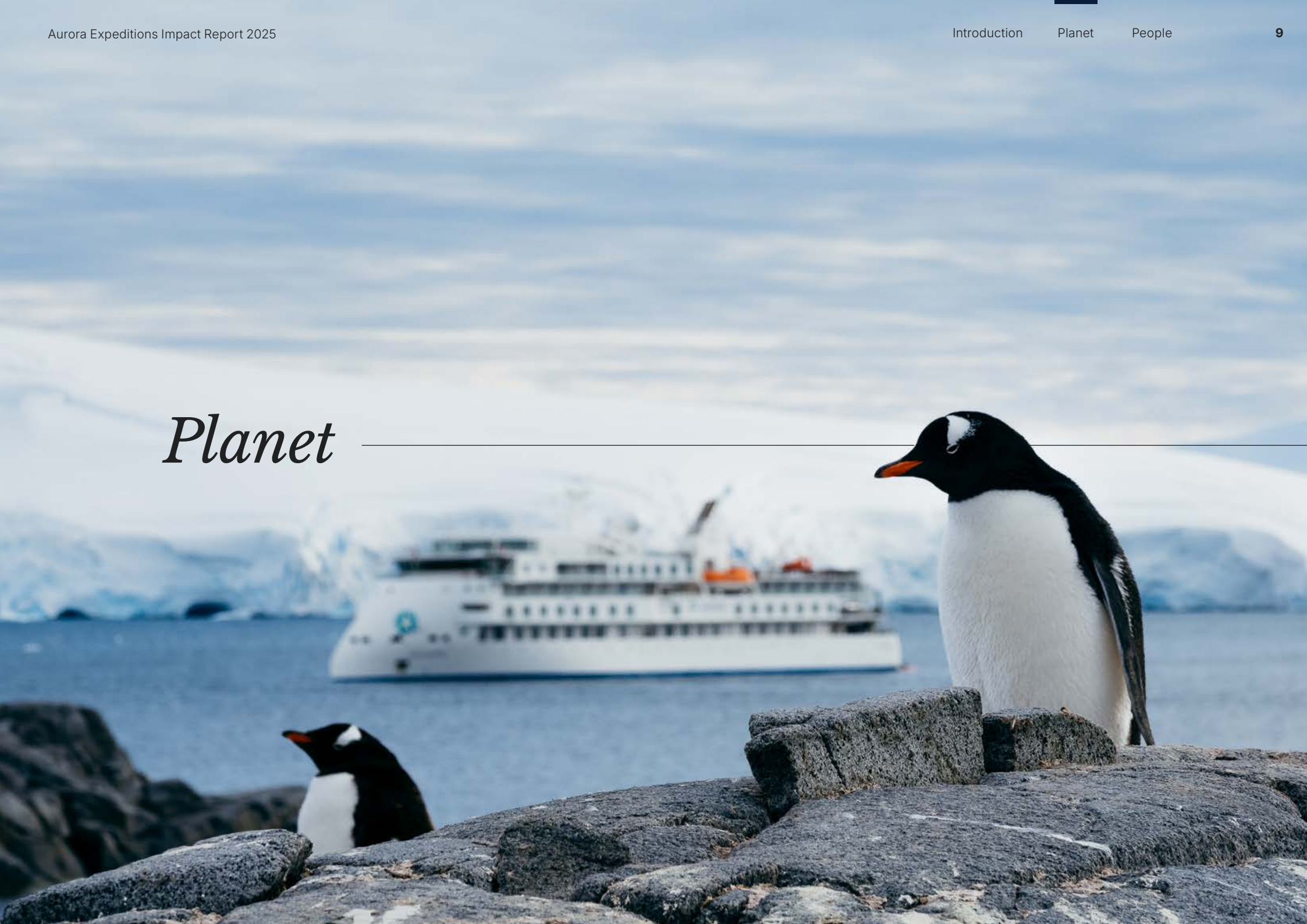
Our B Impact score

We earned 87.5 in our B Impact assessment, compared with a median score of 50.9 for ordinary businesses that complete the assessment. We look forward to recertifying under the new B Lab standards in 2027.

- 87.5 Overall B Impact Score
- 80 Qualifies for B Corp Certification
- 50.9 Median Score for Ordinary Businesses

2021 Scoping — **2022** Preparation — **2023** Assessment — **2024** Certification — **2027** Reassessment

Planet



Climate Action

Melting ice = more warming = more melting

As explorers of the polar regions, we are acutely aware of the climate crisis. Around 150 billion tonnes of Antarctic ice are irreversibly becoming water every year. And in the Arctic, we've lost an area of ice bigger than Mexico since 1979.

- As ice melts, it exposes darker ocean or land that absorbs more sunlight, creating a feedback loop of more warming and less ice
- Melting ice and thawing permafrost release trapped methane, a potent gas that causes even more warming
- Smaller ice fragments melt more quickly, contributing to a faster cycle of ice loss and warming

When we lose sea ice, we lose the foundation of Antarctica's food web, which feeds krill, penguins, fish, and ultimately, humans.

Cutting our own emissions is an urgent priority, and we are committed to being at the forefront of the transition to low- or zero-emission shipping.

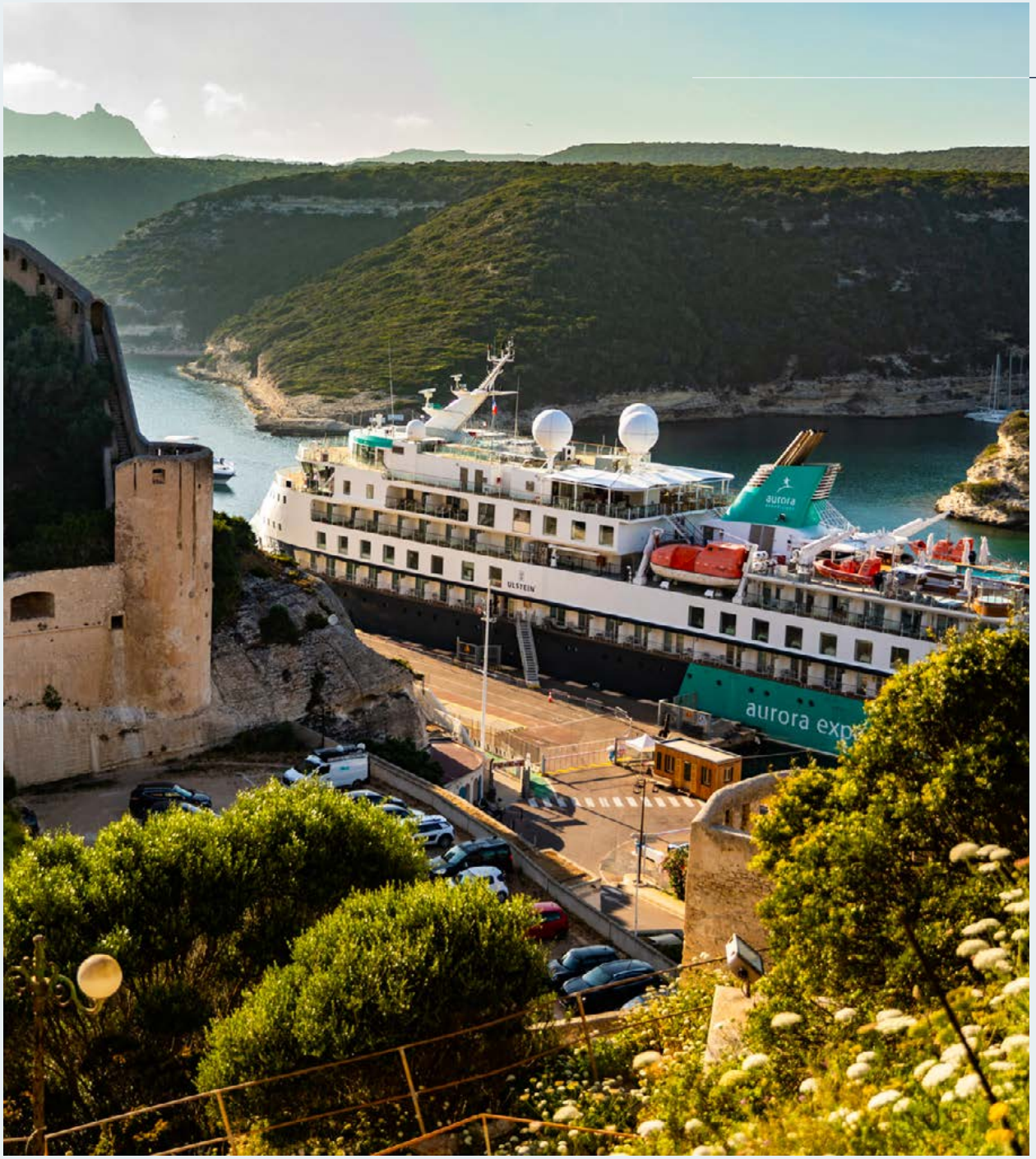
Measuring our footprint

We measure our complete emissions footprint according to the GHG Protocol (Scope 1, 2 and 3). This accounts for our emissions end-to-end, from commuting to our headquarters in Sydney, to the fuel used in our ships, the waste we generate, and consumables used by our passengers.

The climate is changing – so are we

Aurora became certified carbon neutral in 2021, proudly supporting projects like native forest protection in Tasmania, peatland conservation in Indonesia, and rainforest conservation in Papua New Guinea. Over time, we have found that focusing on carbon neutrality can divert attention from our most impactful actions: reducing our own impact and funding high-value environmental initiatives independent of carbon markets.

By focusing on direct emissions reductions and environmental initiatives with tangible, long-term benefits for biodiversity, pollution reduction and ocean health, we are taking action where it matters most.



A successful bio-fuel trial aboard the Sylvia Earle

Driven by tightening EU maritime fuel regulations, the Sylvia Earle became the first Infinity Class vessel to trial biofuel in 2025, a major milestone in our efforts to reduce the climate impact of our expeditions.

Over several days sailing along the Spanish coastline, the ship successfully operated on 100% hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) made entirely from used cooking oil.

This resulted in an approximate 90% reduction in fuel-related greenhouse gas emissions compared with standard marine oil.

While availability and cost remain key challenges, this trial provided valuable insights that will inform future trials and the broader adoption of biofuels.

Ocean regeneration

When the ocean changes, everything changes.

Oceans generate more than half the oxygen we breathe, regulate the climate, and absorb carbon dioxide. Coastal ecosystems play a unique role, buffering communities against storms, preventing erosion, and supporting livelihoods. But today, marine habitats are under severe pressure from pollution, overfishing and climate change.

- Higher atmospheric carbon creates a more acidic ocean, harming reefs, which are a cornerstone of the global food web
- The migration of marine species to cooler waters impacts communities that rely on them for food
- A warmer ocean leads to more intense storms, which threaten coastal communities and infrastructure
- Shifting rain patterns lead to more droughts, wildfires, and freshwater scarcity

We must act quickly before irreversible tipping points are reached.

We focus our efforts on underwater planting and pollution reduction, to restore crucial ocean ecosystems and protect iconic wildlife. Unlike land-based tree planting, our efforts target seagrass meadows and kelp forests, which are among the most effective natural carbon sinks, and coral reefs which are critical for marine ecosystems.

Every passenger helps fund ocean regeneration

New initiative launched in 2025

For each passenger, we fund the planting of one unit of new life in the ocean and the removal of one kilogram of ocean-bound waste.

FY25 saw 4,716 passengers. So, we funded the planting of 4,716 units of marine life and prevented 4,716 kilograms of plastic waste from entering the ocean. This initiative goes beyond conservation, to actively rebuild what has been lost due to human activity and climate change.

Saving a climate hero

Underwater seagrass meadows are visible from space. They store carbon at twice the rate of land-based forests, filter water, and provide habitat for sea turtles and manatees. But two football fields disappear every hour.

Restoring a wildlife ally

Absorbing carbon faster than tropical forests, kelp is quietly shaping the future of life on Earth. But kelp forests have declined dramatically. Restoration is vital for providing shelter for wildlife, combating climate change, and reversing ocean acidification.

Rebuilding ocean's architects

Coral reefs support around a quarter of all marine life. But half of the world's reefs have disappeared in the last 30 years, and most of the remainder are at risk from warming, ocean acidification, and polluted runoff.

Projects Supported:

The Cleanwave Foundation and MedGardens plant seagrass meadows and work with communities to promote sustainable mooring in Mallorca, Spain.

Coastal Kelp and the Sechelt First Nations restore kelp forests in partnership with Indigenous communities, to honour traditional knowledge around sustainable aquaculture in British Columbia, Canada.

SeaForester use the green gravel technique to seed stones with seaweed spores and scatter them across reefs in Cascais, Portugal.

Ocean Gardener employ local fishermen to restore reefs on Nusa Penida, Bali, using techniques like three-dimensional photogrammetry.

Raising Coral revive degraded reefs in partnership with local coral gardeners who monitor and improve reef health in Golfo Dulce, Costa Rica.

Stopping ocean-bound plastic waste at the source

Every year, millions of tonnes of plastic end up in our ocean, harming marine life, polluting coastal communities, and even making its way into the food we eat.

Plastic can be found everywhere from the Arctic to the deepest ocean trenches. While it is a global problem, a significant portion stems from a handful of places, especially from rivers with underdeveloped waste management.

By understanding these key locations, we can target prevention efforts where they make the biggest difference.

Cleaning up the Coral Triangle

Indonesia lies within the Coral Triangle, one of the world's richest (yet most highly polluted) marine regions.

We partnered with CleanHub to support a waste recovery project in North Sulawesi. Along with a local partner, the No-Trash Triangle Initiative, the project connects homes, schools and businesses to reliable waste management, to help avoid open burning and dumping.

River traps and barriers have also been installed to intercept plastic before it reaches the ocean, and regular clean-ups target beaches, mangroves, and coral reefs.

At the heart of the project are principles of community empowerment and circular economy, with local teams trained and employed to operate sorting stations and river traps.

Plastic in the ocean = chemicals in our bodies

It's time to end the era of single-use.

Plastic is an amazing material. It has even saved nature in some ways. Think of all the items like spectacles that used to be made at the expense of the now-endangered hawksbill turtle. And imagine how many trees would have been cut down if all of our furniture was still made from wood instead of plastic.

The problem truly accelerated when we decided to make single-use items out of plastic. How did we ever think that a material that defies nature and that doesn't break down should ever be made to be used once?

Plastic might not break down, but it does break up into smaller and smaller pieces, becoming micro-plastics by the time it reaches ocean centres. Tiny planktonic animals at the bottom of the food chain mistake the particles for food, contaminating the entire system.

Plastic attracts toxic chemicals in the ocean like a magnet. The world has seen decades of unchecked industrial and agricultural pollutants entering the ocean. Some pollutants like DDT (which was banned in the 1970s and was found to contribute to cancer) still remain in the ocean, being adsorbed by plastic pollution.

Chemicals love plastic, but they seem to love fatty tissues even more. These chemicals are often stored in the muscle and fat of fish (and eventually us), where they have been linked to all kinds of diseases, including cancers and autoimmune disorders.

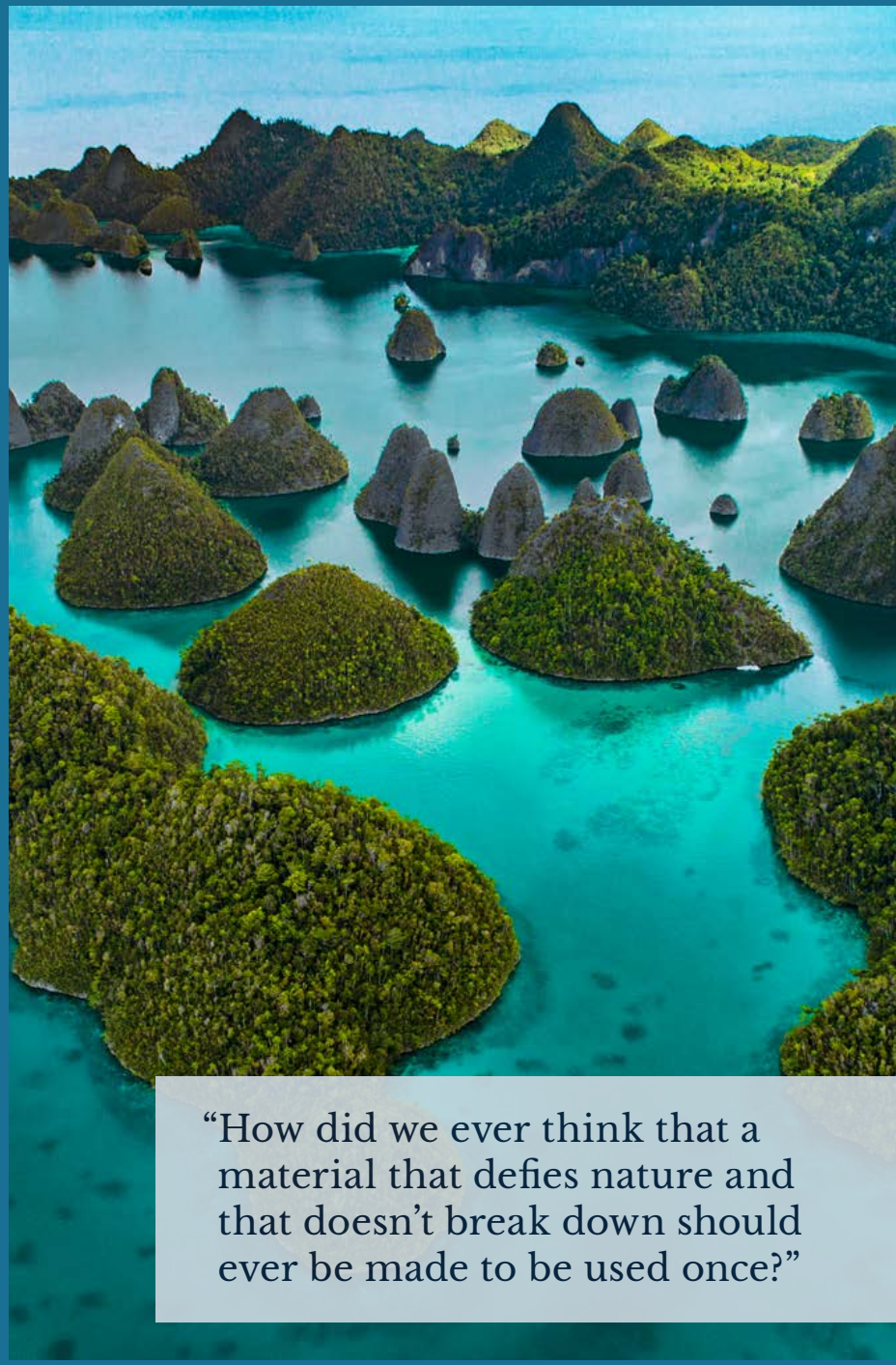
We can't recycle our way out of this problem. Plastic is downcycled each time it is recycled, and it is estimated that 99% of plastics will not be recycled a second time.

We must stop using unnecessary single-use plastic items – and that means behaviour change for all of us. Governments can help with legislation, but we consumers are driving the demand and producers are putting profit before the health of our beautiful planet.

We managed our lives before this crazy, throwaway lifestyle took hold. And we can do it again.

Jo Ruxton
Marine Conservationist

A deck on the Sylvia Earle is named after Jo Ruxton, to honour her contribution to conserving critical ocean ecosystems.



"How did we ever think that a material that defies nature and that doesn't break down should ever be made to be used once?"

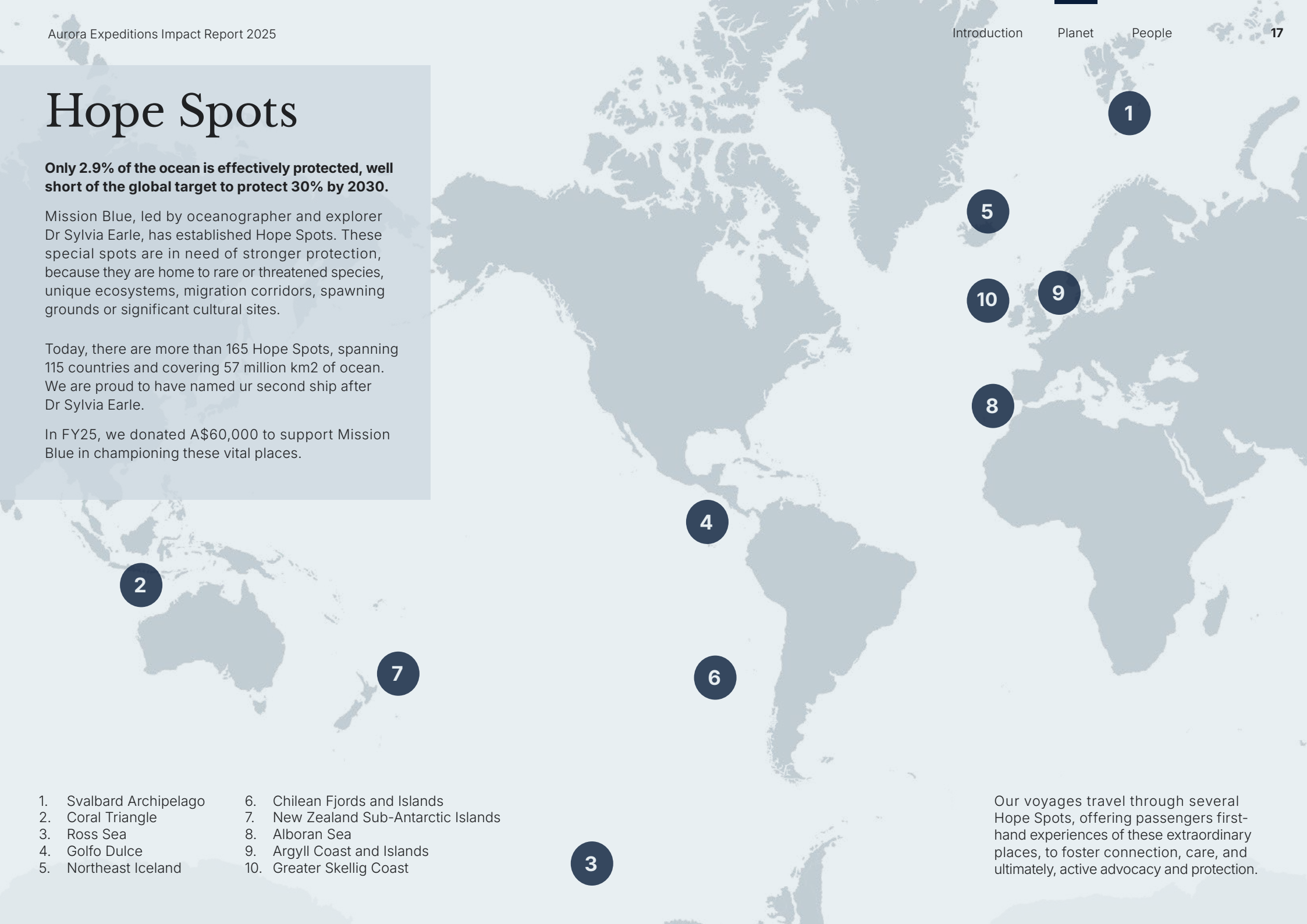
Hope Spots

Only 2.9% of the ocean is effectively protected, well short of the global target to protect 30% by 2030.

Mission Blue, led by oceanographer and explorer Dr Sylvia Earle, has established Hope Spots. These special spots are in need of stronger protection, because they are home to rare or threatened species, unique ecosystems, migration corridors, spawning grounds or significant cultural sites.

Today, there are more than 165 Hope Spots, spanning 115 countries and covering 57 million km2 of ocean. We are proud to have named ur second ship after Dr Sylvia Earle.

In FY25, we donated A$60,000 to support Mission Blue in championing these vital places.



1. Svalbard Archipelago
2. Coral Triangle
3. Ross Sea
4. Golfo Dulce
5. Northeast Iceland
6. Chilean Fjords and Islands
7. New Zealand Sub-Antarctic Islands
8. Alboran Sea
9. Argyll Coast and Islands
10. Greater Skellig Coast

Our voyages travel through several Hope Spots, offering passengers first-hand experiences of these extraordinary places, to foster connection, care, and ultimately, active advocacy and protection.

Protecting life on Earth requires protecting the Southern Ocean

The Southern Ocean has drawn down 40% of all the carbon humanity has put into the atmosphere.

How? First – cold water is very good at absorbing carbon dioxide (CO_2). Other processes relate to phytoplankton (small plants that use CO_2 to photosynthesise) and krill (tiny crustaceans that absorb CO_2). When phytoplankton and krill die, they sink to the depths of the ocean, taking the carbon down with them and locking it up.

From the food we eat, to the fight against climate change, the Southern Ocean and its plants and animals are critical to life on our planet. But rising temperatures are reducing the absorption of CO_2 into the ocean, and wildlife – from krill to whales – are struggling to adapt to climate changes. It is ironic that a changing climate makes things harder for the very species that help to combat it – creating a deadly feedback loop.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) can make ecosystems more resilient to climate change, helping them to continue to be allies in the fight against it.

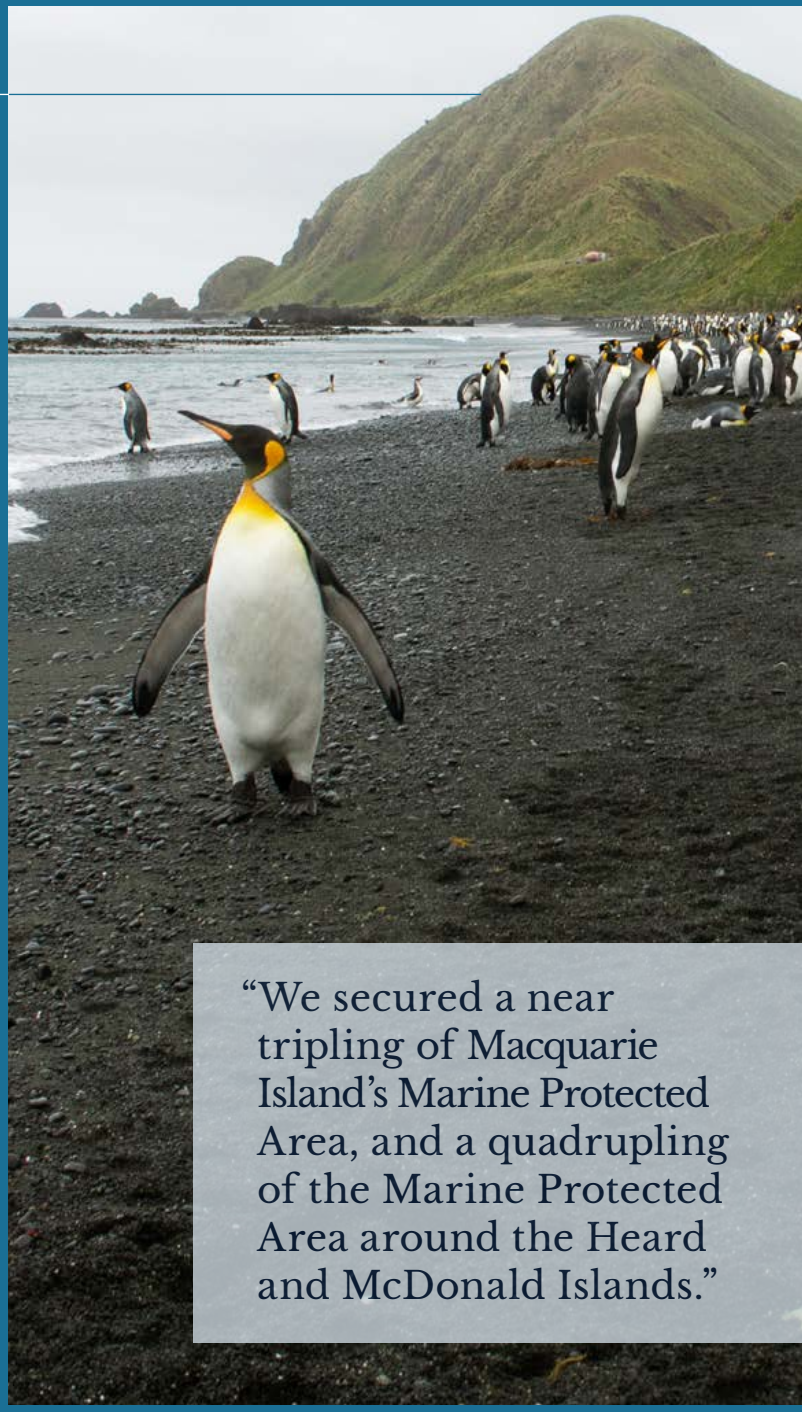
Disagreements and lack of ambition in international waters has slowed progress in securing MPAs. However, 2023/24 presented a unique opportunity for Australia to protect parts of the Southern Ocean, with a once-per-decade review of existing MPAs around Australian-owned sub-Antarctic islands.

Following two years of science-based advocacy, together with Pew Charitable Trusts, the Australian Marine Conservation Society, and Save Our Marine Life, we secured a near tripling of Macquarie Island's MPA to 475,465 km^2 in 2023, and a quadrupling of the MPA around the Heard and McDonald Islands to 346,000 km^2

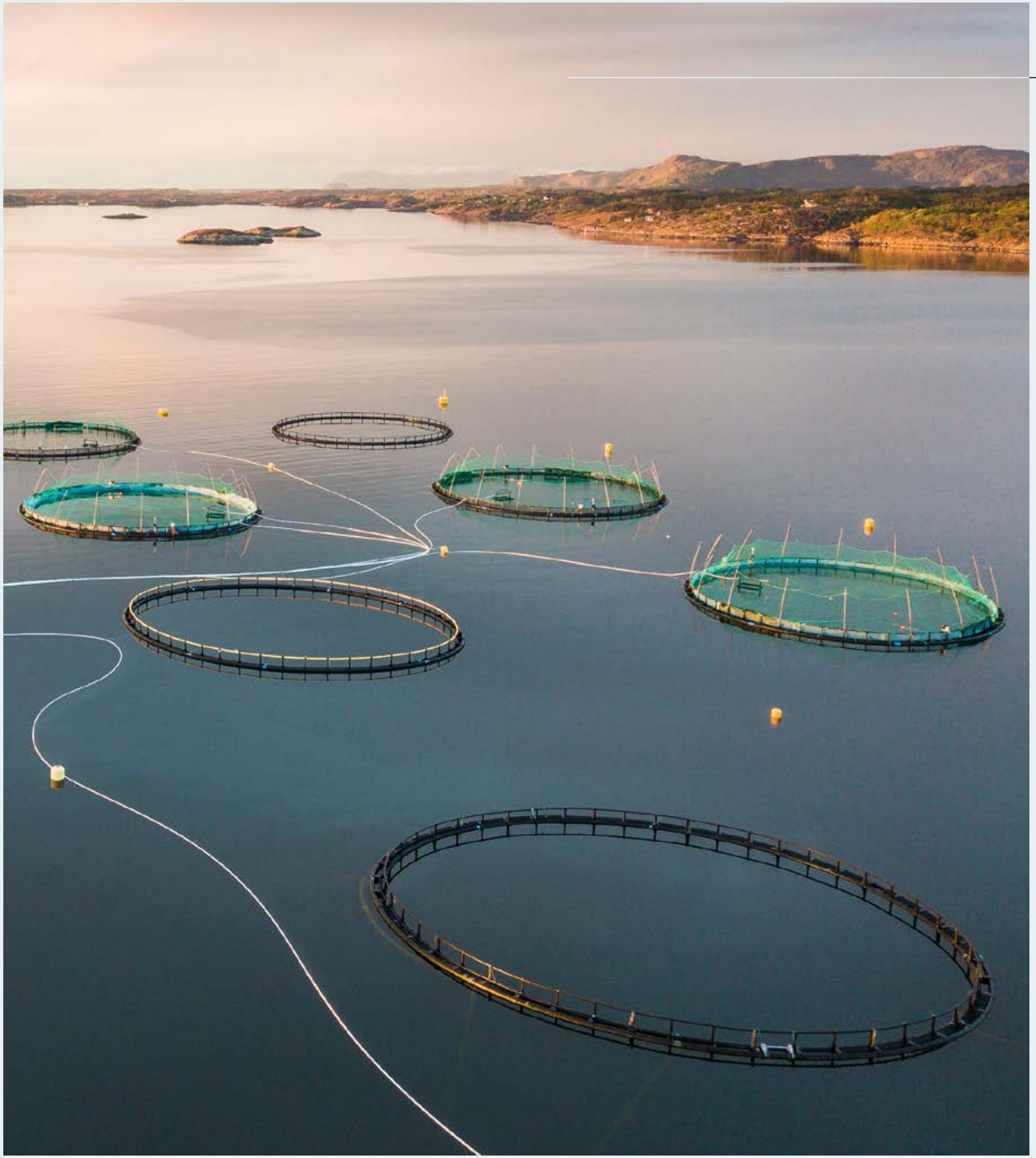
Much work still needs to be done, with less than 5% of the Southern Ocean currently protected by 'no-take' MPAs. But these recent successes show that when scientists, conservationists and governments work together, big improvements are possible.

Dr Tim Jarvis AM
Adventurer & Environmental Scientist

Dr Tim Jarvis AM is an ambassador to Save Our Marine Life. He is also an environmental scientist and advisor to Aurora Expeditions. Dr Jarvis is joining Aurora's inaugural circumnavigation of Tasmania in December 2025.



"We secured a near tripling of Macquarie Island's Marine Protected Area, and a quadrupling of the Marine Protected Area around the Heard and McDonald Islands."



Responsible seafood menu

We only source our wild-caught or farmed seafood from companies certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) or equivalent.

These certifications aren't perfect, but they do provide independent checks across complex supply chains where direct oversight can be difficult.

Alongside certification, we choose species based on population health and whether they can be responsibly sourced.

The expansion of salmon farming has brought significant environmental challenges. Most farmed salmon is raised in open-net pens in coastal waters, where waste, excess feed and chemicals flow directly into the surrounding marine environment. This can lead to nutrient pollution, algal blooms and damage to sensitive ecosystems.

From the 2025–26 Antarctic season, we will remove salmon from our onboard menu. Until stronger environmental standards are adopted across the industry, we are choosing alternatives that align with our commitment to ocean health.

Welcoming our third ship, the Douglas Mawson

M/V Douglas Mawson joins our fleet in November 2025 - our third Infinity Class vessel purpose-built for responsible expedition travel.

Named after legendary Australian geologist and Antarctic explorer, the Douglas Mawson joins the Greg Mortimer and the Sylvia Earle. Every detail is designed with sustainability in mind.

Emissions

- Orca nosed X-BOW® hull, for lower emissions and smoother sailing
- Engine heat is reused to warm luxury cabins and onboard water tanks.
- Shore-based electricity used in ports that have supporting infrastructure, reducing fuel-use
- Wärtsilä's NOx Reducer cuts down nitrogen oxide emissions

Seabed

- Dynamic positioning allows us to remain in place without dropping anchor, minimising disturbance to delicate seabeds

Water

- Ultra-efficient Oras Hydractiva digital hand shower provides real-time feedback, allowing passengers to manage their water usage
- Reverse osmosis water filtration

Waste

- Refillable, bulk-sourced consumables avoid single-use
- Complimentary reusable water bottles and water refilling stations

Microplastics

- Up to 99% of microplastics captured by Indikon circular filtration system on washing machines

Innovation onboard the Douglas Mawson

Industry-leading microfibre filters: Cleaner Seas

Every time we wash our clothes, hundreds of thousands of plastic microfibres are released into wastewater. These tiny plastic strands are too small to be captured by standard filtration systems and often end up in the ocean, where they harm marine life and enter the food chain.

On the Douglas Mawson, we've partnered with Cleaner Seas to install their Indikon circular filtration system on all washing machines. This technology captures up to 99% of microplastics at the source. Once full, the filters are returned to Cleaner Seas for recycling, closing the loop and ensuring the captured fibres are properly managed and given a new life.

Every action matters. By installing solutions like this, whether on our vessels or in homes, we can all play a role in protecting marine life.

Trialling climate-tech for lower-emissions shipping: CounterCurrent

Planning safe, efficient and lower-emissions shipping routes relies on good data on ocean currents. Australian climate-technology company, CounterCurrent, uses AI modelling, onboard sensors and satellite data to generate hyperlocal, vessel-specific route predictions.

In polar regions, real-time current data is scarce. So, the Douglas Mawson will host a CounterCurrent sensor throughout the 2025–26 Antarctic season to:

- Capture real-time wind, wave and ocean current data from remote Southern Ocean regions
- Feed information into global climate and weather models, improving forecasting accuracy worldwide
- Support safer, more efficient navigation for our own ship, and the wider maritime community globally

This project is a collaboration between CounterCurrent, Aurora Expeditions and the Polar Citizen Science Collective.

By filling critical data gaps in one of the most remote oceans on Earth, we are contributing to a smarter, cleaner future for maritime travel, one where every voyage improves the next.

CounterCurrent Triton Sensor

People

Citizen Science

Our passengers can contribute to global research, collecting data in some of the most hard-to-reach, under-studied places on Earth. Our Citizen Science Program covers seven projects that span the globe, to advance understanding of marine ecosystems, birdlife, climate change and polar environments.

Tracking whales

HappyWhale uses photo ID to track individual whales. Guests can photograph encounters and log them on the database, improving knowledge about migration, population health and behaviour. In the past year, we recorded 344 encounters, including two sperm whales that are new to science.

344 encounters recorded — **Learn More**

Monitoring seabirds

eBird is the world's largest biodiversity-related Citizen Science project, collecting bird observations from around the globe. Aurora passengers help to track species distribution and population changes. In the past year, we recorded 49 species and submitted 33 checklists, including observations of black-browed albatrosses, snowy albatrosses, giant petrels and storm petrels.

49 species recorded — **Learn More**

Contributing to climate modelling

Our passengers are invited to record cloud conditions, with observations submitted to NASA GLOBE Cloud contributing to climate modelling. Over the past season, we contributed 74 observations. A cloud survey on our Svalbard voyage was taken at more than 82.5 degrees. North, one of the northernmost surveys recorded to date.

74 observations recorded — **Learn More**

Measuring ocean clarity (Secchi)

Our Citizen Scientists measure water clarity by lowering a Secchi disk, recording visibility, and sharing data with scientists that are studying the effects of climate change on ocean ecosystems. This builds a long-term global dataset, and each voyage contributes new observations from some of the least-studied waters in the world.

Learn More

Studying snow algae

Snow algae are microscopic organisms that grow on snow and ice, influencing melt rates. The Snow Algae Study engages passengers in photographing and recording snow algae sites, contributing to global research into how these organisms influence the Antarctic environment. This study is supported by the latest science from the National Snow and Ice Data Center.

Learn More

Tracking phytoplankton health (FjordPhyto)

FjordPhyto invites passengers to explore phytoplankton diversity in polar fjords and coastal waters. Using simple tools, they collect samples to help scientists track phytoplankton health and its response to changing ocean conditions. These observations enhance understanding of the base of the marine food and how climate change is altering polar ecosystems.

Learn More

Thermal Imaging of Polar Ice (TIPI)

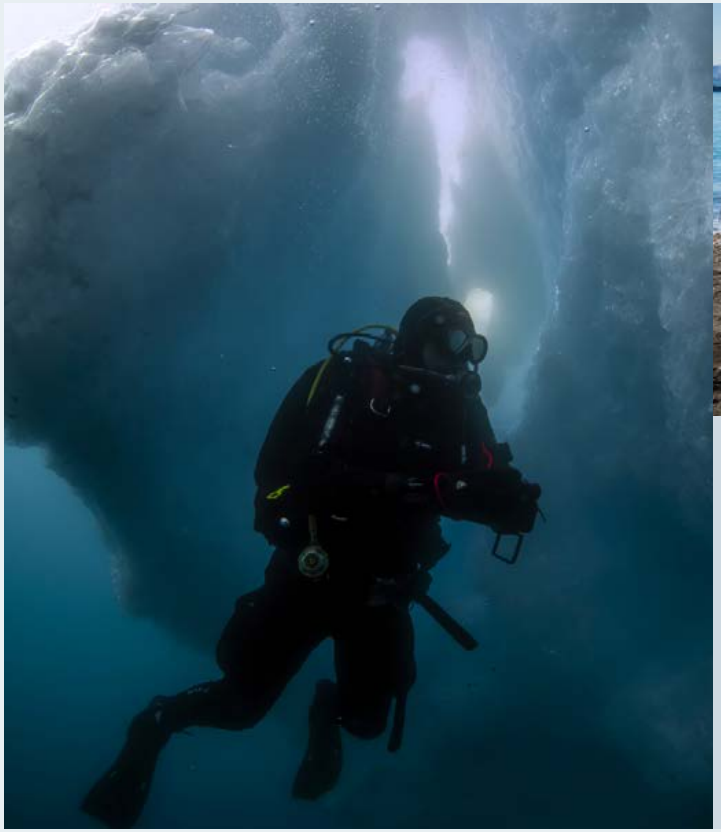
We are proudly the first expedition company to facilitate the development and execution of the TIPI pilot project, using thermal imaging to measure polar ice conditions. This project combines science, technology and storytelling to create robust datasets while engaging the public in polar research. We are collaborating with founder Joe Muise to deliver high-quality scientific outcomes.

Learn More

We offer our ships as mobile research platforms

Our voyages reach some of the most remote and hard-to-access regions on Earth, where harsh weather, isolation and logistical costs can make scientific research difficult. Bringing scientists on board accelerates their research, building knowledge of polar ecosystems and informing policies and protection strategies.

Expeditioners get a front-row seat to cutting-edge science, showing them first-hand how climate change is influencing habitats and wildlife. This helps to build a global network of people who carry these stories home.



Penguin research with Oceanites

Oceanites documents penguins to shape conservation strategies. Onboard the Greg Mortimer, the Oceanites team conducted 15 penguin colony counts, including at islands not surveyed since 2017.

"Aurora Expeditions has been vital in helping us gather data from rarely visited colonies."

Grant Humphries

Whale health with Friedlaender Lab

The Friedlaender Lab joined us onboard the Greg Mortimer, to collect 35 minimally invasive samples from humpback and minke whales, to help understand how environmental changes are affecting them.

"Our partnership means we are able to do more work and share our experiences directly with passengers."

Ari Friedlaender

Life under the ice with Reef Life Survey

Reef Life Survey scientists joined us onboard the Sylvia Earle, to survey ten shallow rocky reefs. Divers found oversized sea spiders, out-of-this-world icefish, sea stars and more.

"With Aurora, we have opened a new scientific porthole on Antarctic marine life, conducting our most challenging surveys yet."

Rick Stuart-Smith

Inspiring ambassadors for the natural world

We believe that seeing environmental impacts first-hand is the quickest way to inspire deep perspective shifts and behavioural change. So, our guides share their deep expertise with guests. One example is the many threats facing krill - a cornerstone of the global marine ecosystem. On our voyages, our passengers see humpback whales feeding on krill swarms and penguins raising their young, bringing the importance of krill into sharp focus. We share the pressures facing krill, and encourage informed choices at home, such as avoiding krill-based supplements.

Ambassador Workshops

Many of the most meaningful moments don't happen on the ice - they happen in conversations afterwards. Our onboard Ambassador Workshops invite passengers to share their most memorable moments - the sudden splash of a humpback, the crash of a glacier wall, or the silence of being out on the ocean.

We ask people to reflect on how this sense of wonder and appreciation can be brought home. For some, it's small changes in daily life. For others, it's supporting conservation, advocating for climate action, supporting scientific research, fighting for policy changes or simply sharing their story to inspire others.

Being an ambassador is about continuing these important conversations, creating ripples of change in homes and communities.

Onboard Auctions

Onboard auctions are a meaningful way for passengers to give back to the places and projects that make their travel experiences possible.

During the 2024-25 Antarctic season, the generosity of our passengers resulted in raising A$70,000. These proceeds were directed to organisations working across the polar regions and beyond, including:

- South Georgia Heritage Trust
- Happy Whale (citizen science project)
- Polar Citizen Science Collective
- Friedlaender Lab
- Reef Life Survey

Raising future custodians with Upschool

Upschool is an Australian platform offering free courses for children and teachers worldwide. Through Aurora, Upschool has been able to film and produce 58 courses, sharing the magic of the Arctic, the Antarctic and Iceland.

- It Starts with You explores the Arctic's role in global climate systems and encourages students to design their own plans for positive change
- The Power of One shares the importance of ocean ecosystems, with lessons filmed in Antarctica, the Falklands and South Georgia

Freely available in every country, Upschool's courses have been accessed almost 420,000 times. In total, Aurora's class materials have reached more than 74,000 children in 195 countries.

Learn More

"Our mission is to raise future adults who, twenty years from now, will walk the streets with a deep sense of responsibility for the planet. Through our partnership with Aurora Expeditions, this is not only possible, it is happening! We are opening windows into the Arctic, the Antarctic, and Iceland. And when children can see these wonders, they feel more compelled to care for them."

Gavin McCormack Upschool Founder

Funding to protect the places we love

Our donations in FY25

On-the-ground conservation
Adventure Travel Conservation Fund

In 2025, we joined international non-profit ATCF. Our membership funds projects that protect endangered species and fragile habitats, preserve cultural heritage and support Indigenous communities. Being part of this network allows us to pool resources with other adventure organisations, to help protect the things that make our destinations so extraordinary.

A$30,000 donated

Protecting one of Australia's most remote ecosystems
Macquarie Island Conservation Foundation

The Macquarie Island Conservation Foundation supports science, research, management, student projects and outreach to advance conservation on Macquarie Island.

A$20,000 donated

Championing Hope Spots
Mission Blue

Led by oceanographer and explorer Dr Sylvia Earle, Mission Blue advocates for the protection of Hope Spots - critical areas of ocean that are home to rare or threatened species, unique ecosystems, migration corridors, spawning grounds or significant cultural sites.

A$60,000 donated

Protecting the legacy of explorers
Mawsons Hut Foundation

The Mawson's Huts Foundation is dedicated to conserving the historic huts at Cape Denison, East Antarctica, which was the main base for the 1911–1914 Australasian Antarctic Expedition led by Sir Douglas Mawson. These huts are recognised as the birthplace of Australia's Antarctic heritage. As a principal sponsor, we are proud to protect this legacy of human endeavour, courage, science and discovery.

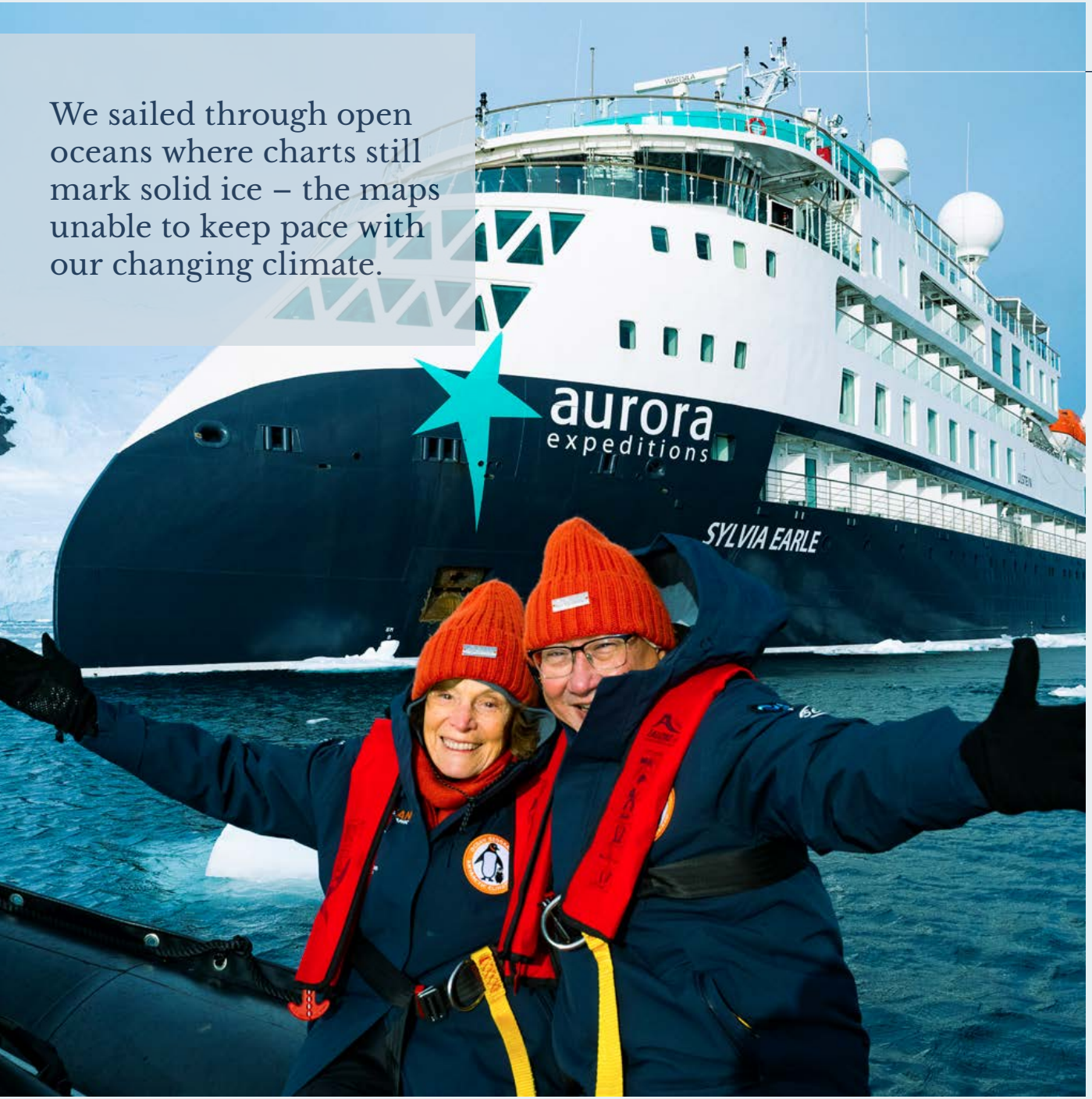
A$30,000 donated

Honouring Inuit culture and knowledge

Oxen Network, Community Ambassador Program

Travelling the Arctic takes us into the homelands of Inuit communities. On select itineraries in Greenland and the Northwest Passage, we partner with the Oxen Network. The Community Ambassador Program invites Inuit community members to join voyages as honoured, paid guests, with the freedom to contribute in ways that feel authentic to them, whether sharing traditional stories or lived experiences of Arctic life and culture.

Four ambassadors joined us during the Arctic ‘25 season



We sailed through open oceans where charts still mark solid ice – the maps unable to keep pace with our changing climate.

Petitioning for the future of our planet, aboard our second climate voyage

Our second climate-focused voyage, the BIG ACE (Bears, Ice, Glaciers, Arctic Climate Expedition) brought together scientists, artists, youth leaders, filmmakers, and educators under one mission: to give voice to the voiceless and inspire the world to protect the Arctic. Ambassadors witnessed glaciers scarred by meltwater, ancient ice towers collapsing, rain replacing snowfall, and exposed earth where there was once ice.

Voyage highlights:

- 98 climate ambassadors aged 9-90, from 25 countries
- Created and launched the Arctic Resolution: a petition to protect the Arctic Ocean from surface to seafloor
- Found microplastics in both surface and in-water samples, including snow collected from pack ice at 81.6°N
- Celebrated Dr. Sylvia Earle's 90th birthday, honouring her lifelong legacy of ocean conservation

Antarctic Pride voyage

In 2025, we hosted our first Pride voyage to the Antarctic Peninsula, combining polar exploration with a celebration of identity and community. Passengers joined curated events and celebrations while travelling through one of the most awe-inspiring regions of the world.

Introducing our new Eco-Expedition Parka

Outdoor gear is often made with synthetic materials, chemical treatments and packaging, with long-lasting environmental impacts.

We partnered with Certified B Corp™, XTM Performance, to launch the Eco-Expedition Parka, proving that high performance and sustainability can go hand in hand.

- Outer shell made from 100% recycled PET bottles
- PFAS-free, water-repellent coating (PFAS are harmful 'forever chemicals' commonly found in waterproof gear that pose risks to ecosystems and human health)
- Built to last, with reinforced construction
- Gender-specific fits
- Safety features like reflective patches for visibility in polar conditions
- 100% landfill-free packaging

Meeting the locals who grow our food

Positive impact ripples across our entire supply chain.

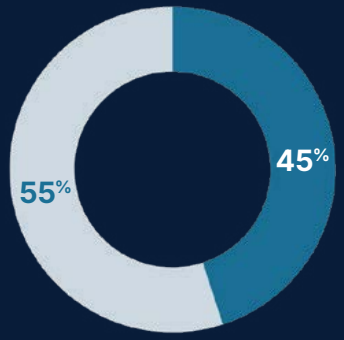
Our Head of People and Culture and our Sustainability Manager travelled across Argentina to meet the people who grow, raise and harvest the ingredients served onboard our Antarctic voyages.

They began near Ushuaia to visit a cattle farm. Surrounded by natural landscapes, the cattle roamed freely across the terrain. From there, the team visited vegetable growers in Virrey del Pino, vineyards in Mendoza, and farms in Bahía Blanca and Viedma. At every stop, they were welcomed by producers who share our commitment to sustainability, quality and community.

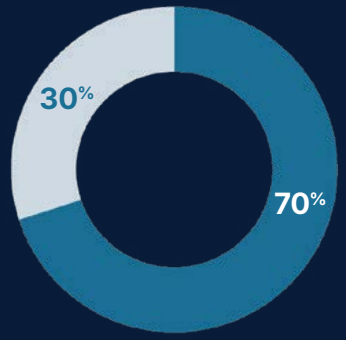
Our diverse team

We are explorers of the world and explorers from the world. Aurora Expeditions remains committed to creating opportunities and leadership pathways for people of all genders and from all walks of life.

Senior Leadership



All staff



Female Male

Working across 10 countries

Australia
United States
Canada
England
Philippines
Argentina
New Zealand
Germany
China
Brazil

21 languages spoken

Turkish
Hindi
Urdu
Punjabi
Italian
Greek
Mandarin
Russian
Japanese
Portuguese
Latvian
Filipino
Ilocano
Cebuano
Estonian
Maori
French
Spanish
Polish
English
German

Exploration isn't about conquering new worlds, it's about caring for them.

For too long, the story of exploration has been told in one voice - one that often celebrated conquest. That's why women must be present, be heard, and lead.

Experiences shape the lens through which we see the world, and if only half of humanity is holding the lens, we see only half the picture. When women lead at extreme frontiers, we expand perspectives, bring emotional intelligence to scientific discoveries, and place responsibility over achievement. Most importantly, we show the next generation that bravery doesn't just look one way.

October 7, 2002 is the day I realised my dream to launch into space - a dream that first materialised when I was a young girl in middle school, in southern Illinois. I had no idea if women could be astronauts, but entering high school, I got an answer. It was 1978 and a front-page article in my hometown paper shared that NASA had selected the very first group of women astronauts. That story made my dream seem possible!

Over time, the Astronaut Corps expanded beyond male military-trained test pilots, to a broader community that included women, people of colour and civilians. By the time I joined in 1996, it was a diverse group - a testament to the fact that humans, no matter where we come from, are all explorers!

The future of exploration depends on diverse teams that think differently, solve problems creatively, and approach the world with empathy as well as ambition, whether we are diving into the depths of the ocean, traversing polar landscapes, or studying the mysteries of deep space.

Women explorers add an eye for connection and preservation. Our experiences drive us to look beyond planting flags, to translating these new experiences into relatable lessons for our current lives.

The world is vast, beautiful, and in need of all our voices. And to the next generation of girls with dirt under their nails and stars in their eyes, the frontier is yours. Go claim it.

Dr. Sandra Magnus
Former NASA Astronaut

Dr. Sandra H. Magnus is an Aurora partner. She is joining us as a special guest on our 2026 solar eclipse voyage. Dr. Magnus most recently served as the Chief Engineer for the Traffic Coordination System for Space, in the Office of Space Commerce. She is also a part-time Professor with the Georgia Institute of Technology.

"My dream is that Aurora realises its full potential to be an agent of change by influencing the behaviour of its passengers to lessen their climate impact in their day to day lives."

Greg Mortimer Founder


aurora
expeditions