ANTARCTIC ICE FLIGHT



A DEEP FREEZE mission to the world's coldest CONTINENT

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TEXT TYPE Recount

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1 Fly to the Coldest Place

No **Ordinary** Flight



icebergs break away from Antarctica

In two weeks we'll catch a plane. But this flight is no ordinary flight. You can't just buy a ticket, pack your suitcase, and turn up to the airport. There are no tourists on this flight, only people like scientists who will be working in Antarctica.

The Coldest Continent

This is a flight to the Antarctic, the coldest continent in the world. It is an environment that must be treated with a lot of care and respect.

Planning for the Flight

We need to start training and planning for our flight from Hobart, Tasmania to the Antarctic. We begin many days ahead of our trip.



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Geography

The Antarctic Landscape

Antarctica is the driest, windiest and coldest continent in the world. The Antarctic continent is a landmass covered with ice, some of it up to four kilometres thick. There is also some exposed rock. Millions of years ago Antarctica was heavily vegetated, but now the only plants left are mosses and lichens.





an Airbus A319-115LR

2 Packed for the Ice Flight

TEXT TYPE Recount



Six **Steps** to **Prepare**

In December last year, we were planning to visit Antarctica. We needed to catch a plane from Tasmania, Australia. Our flight would be one of about 20 flights that this plane makes to the Antarctic each year. Our plane would carry 20 passengers. In emergencies, it's also used as a flying ambulance.

Before leaving, we had to do some training and learn more about how to prepare for our trip.

Step 1

Well before our flight, everyone attended training in Tasmania, Australia. This helped us prepare for the trip to Antarctica.

Step 2

One thing we were told was that we could take only 45 kilograms of baggage each. That sounded like quite a lot, but there are no shops in Antarctica.



training in Tasmania

Step 3

On our first day of training, we caught a special bus to Kingston in Tasmania, where we had a busy day of learning about the trip.

Step 4

We were measured, weighed and given health checks. We were also given the clothing and things that we needed to live and work in the freezing cold Antarctic conditions.

Step 5

We were told that most of the special clothing had to be returned when we got back to Australia, for the next group of travellers.

But it was good to know that some items – like our thermal underwear – were not recycled. We could keep those!

Step 6

We couldn't use any of our special clothing before we got on the plane. Antarctica is a protected environment, so we had to keep our clothes clean so that seeds and insects couldn't hitch a ride.

We were also warned that if we wanted to take any of our own clothing, it had to be washed in bleach.

We had to be extra careful about shoes, which could carry hidden pests or dirt on the soles.



getting our Antarctic clothing



packing our Antarctic clothing

After the training, we knew what clothes we would need and what to pack. We were now ready to learn more about the trip.

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