



Aurora Expeditions Named World's Leading Polar Expedition Operator 2020 in 27th World Travel Awards

28th November 2020 – SYDNEY: Leading Australian-owned expedition cruise operator, [Aurora Expeditions](#), has received one of the highest honours in global travel and tourism, named “The World’s Leading Polar Expedition Operator 2020” in the prestigious World Travel Awards, announced in London today.

On the eve of its milestone 30th anniversary in 2021, the adventure company founded by renowned mountaineer and explorer, Greg Mortimer, and his wife Margaret, has been recognised for industry excellence in product, service and quality.

Established in 1993, the World Travel Awards are regarded globally as the ultimate hallmark of travel and tourism industry excellence. Votes are cast by the general public along with qualified professionals working within travel and tourism – senior executives, travel buyers, tour operators and travel agents – and the results are audited to ensure validity and authenticity.

Graham E. Cooke, World Travel Awards Founder, says: “Despite the unprecedented challenges faced by the travel and tourism sector this year, Aurora Expeditions continues to lead the way in ship-based adventures. Its strive for excellence remains unrivalled and I am delighted that it has been acknowledged by both the travel trade and travellers alike.”

“We are honoured, humbled and thrilled to receive this global award,” says Aurora Expeditions’ CEO Monique Ponfoort. “We were the only Australian cruise company to be nominated in this key category, so it’s a win not only for us but also for Australia in what has been a very challenging year for so many in the local and global cruise industry.”

“Thank you to our family of expeditioners and everyone who voted for us,” she continues. “Your loyalty and support mean the world to us, and we can’t wait to take you to ever-more remote corners of the planet.”

Monique says the award is a testament to the entire Aurora Expeditions team who work tirelessly to deliver the best in expedition travel. “You are the heart and soul of this great Australian company and I’m so proud of everything you achieve,” she concludes.

With a brand new, purpose-built small expedition ship, the *Sylvia Earle*, scheduled to sail on her maiden voyage in November 2021, exciting global and Arctic destinations planned for 2022, and updated health and safety protocols, Aurora Expeditions is at the forefront of expedition travel.

Destinations in the new Global and Arctic 2022 program will include Alaska, the Russian Far East, Raja Ampat and West Papua, the North West Passage, and Baja California.

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Notes to Editors

- Video announcement: https://youtu.be/1_Lsx7LIAjE

About Aurora Expeditions

Aurora Expeditions is an Australian-owned adventure company founded by renowned mountaineer and explorer, Greg Mortimer, and his wife Margaret. Over the past 28 years it has become the leader in small-group, expedition-style travel to polar regions and other wild, remote places including Antarctica, South Georgia and the Falklands, the Arctic (European and Canadian), Alaska, the Russian Far East, Costa Rica, Baja California and West Papua.

Aurora Expeditions offers its passengers intimate experiences in remote destinations through a range of flexible, innovative itineraries. Some voyages offer mountain climbing, sea kayaking, camping, photography, and polar snorkelling and scuba diving options. Aurora Expeditions' expert naturalists, geologists, historians, guides and crew help unlock the wonders of these special places.

Committed to the preservation of the environment, Aurora Expeditions was one of the founders of the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO), which created the environmental protocols for all commercial visitors to Antarctica and is also a member of the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO). In doing so, Aurora Expeditions encourages its passengers to respectfully visit the planet's wilderness areas and return as ambassadors charged with protecting these important regions.

Aurora Expeditions has recently updated its health and safety protocol, as well as implementing a new deposit protection scheme. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.auroraexpeditions.com.au/why-travel-with-us/health-safety/>

For Bookings:

For more information or to book visit www.auroraexpeditions.com.au

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