

CONCISE CHRONOLOGY OF APPROACH TO THE POLES

The following Antarctic and Arctic lists give explorations, in chronological order, of expeditions which reached positions progressively closer towards the South Pole and North Pole, their attainment (air and surface, and by sea in the Arctic), and the first crossings of the regions. They include claims that are unverified and extremely doubtful, although some of these pretensions have been well publicized.

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ANTARCTIC

- 1603 Gabriel de Castilla (Spain), with company aboard *Nuestra Señora de la Merced*, probably penetrated to 64°S in the Southern Ocean south of Drake Passage
Subsequently several merchant vessels reported being blown south of 60°S rounding Cabo de Hornos in severe weather
- 1773 James Cook (Britain), with companies aboard HMS *Resolution* and HMS *Adventure*, crossed the Antarctic Circle (66·53°S) off Enderby Land, 17 January
- 1774 James Cook (Britain) on the same expedition reached 71·17°S off Marie Byrd Land, 30 January
- [1820 Fabian von Bellingshausen (Russia), with companies aboard *Vostok* and *Mirnyy*, sighted the Antarctic continent at about 69·35°S off Dronning Maud Land, 27 January. This was the first sighting of Antarctica.]
- 1823 James Weddell (Britain), with company aboard *Jane*, reached 74·25°S in the Weddell Sea, 20 February
- 1842 James Ross (Britain), with companies aboard HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror*, reached 78·17°S in the Ross Sea, 23 February
- 1900 Hugh Evans (Britain) and 3 others sledged to 78·83°S on the Ross Ice Shelf, 23 February
- 1902 Robert Scott (Britain) and 2 others sledged to 82·28°S on the Ross Ice Shelf, 30 December
- 1909 Ernest Shackleton (Britain) and 3 others sledged to 88·38°S, 9 January
- 1911 Roald Amundsen (Norway) and 4 others dog-sledged to 90°S, 14 December.
- 1912 Robert Scott (Britain) and 4 others sledged to 90°S, 17 January (all perished during the return journey)
- 1929 Richard Byrd (United States), with an aircraft crew, claimed to have flown over the vicinity of the South Pole from the Ross Ice Shelf, 29 November
- 1947 Richard Byrd (United States), with crew aboard two aircraft, flew over the South Pole from the Ross Ice Shelf, 15 February
- 1956 John Torbert (United States) and 6 others flew across Antarctica over the South Pole (Ross Island to Weddell Sea and returned without landing), 13 January
- 1956 Conrad Shinn (United States), with crew of an aircraft, landed at the South Pole, 31 October, a permanent station was then established sustained by aircraft
Subsequently many aircraft have landed at the South Pole
- 1956 Richard Patton (United States), landed at the South Pole by parachute, 25 November
- 1958 Vivian Fuchs (British Commonwealth) and an expeditionary party reached the South Pole with motor vehicles and sledge dogs, 20 January and continued to cross Antarctica (Weddell Sea to Ross Sea)
Subsequently several expeditions have crossed the Antarctic through the South Pole by surface and many have made one-way surface journeys returning aboard aircraft
- 1961 Albert Paddock Cary (United States) led a surface traverse to the South Pole, 12 February. He had reached the North Pole on 3 May 1952 and thus became the first person to have stood on both geographic poles.

ARCTIC

1553 Sir Hugh Willoughby (England), with companies aboard *Bona Esperanza* and *Bona Confidentia*, reached 72°N on the Novaya Zemlya coast, 14 August

1587 John Davis (England), with companies aboard *Elizabeth*, *Ellen*, and *Sunneshine*, reached 72·20°N off west Greenland, July

1594 Willem Barentsz. (Netherlands), with a ship's company, reached 77°N rounding Novaya Zemlya, July

1596 Jacob van Heemskerck (Netherlands), with companies aboard 2 vessels, reached 80·18°N off Svalbard, 17 June

1607 Henry Hudson (Britain), with company aboard *Hopewell*, reached 80·38°N off Svalbard, 16 July

1766 Vasilii Chichagov (Russia), with companies aboard *Chichagov*, *Panov* and *Babayev*, reached 80·47° off Svalbard, 16 July

1773 Constantine Phipps (Britain), with companies aboard *Racehorse* and *Carcass*, reached 80·80°N off Svalbard, 27 July

Subsequently many whaling vessels reached high latitudes

1806 William Scoresby (Britain), with company aboard *Resolution*, reached 81·50°N, off Svalbard

1827 William Parry (Britain) and party, with two sledge boats from *Hecla*, reached 82·75°N off Svalbard, 25 July

This position is farther north than the area inhabited by the Polar Eskimo of Greenland

1876 Albert Markham (Britain) and 2 sledge parties from HMS *Alert* reached 83·34°N off Ellesmere Island, from Floeberg Beach, 12 May

1882 James Lockwood (United States) and 2 others dog-sledged to 83·40°N off Greenland from Fort Conger (Ellesmere Island), 13 May

1895 Fridtjof Nansen and Hjalmar Johansen (Norway) dog-sledged to 86·22°N from *Fram* in the Arctic Ocean, 8 April

1900 Umberto Cagni (Italy) and 3 others claimed to have dog-sledged to 86·57°N from Zemlya Frantsa-Iosefa, 24 April

1908 Frederick Cook (United States), with a sledge party, purported to have reached 90°N, 21 April

1909 Robert Peary (United States) and an expeditionary party, dog-sledged to 87·75°N from Ellesmere Island, 31 March, Peary and 5 others continued north and possibly passed 88°N

1909 Robert Peary (United States), with a sledge party, purported to have reached 90°N, 6 April

1925 Roald Amundsen (Norway), Lincoln Ellsworth (United States) and 4 others flew north from Svalbard in 2 aircraft, crash landed and drifted to 87·83°N, 21 May

1926 Richard Byrd (United States), with an aircraft crew, purported to have reached 90°N by air from Svalbard, 9 May

1926 Roald Amundsen (Norway), Lincoln Ellsworth (United States), Umberto Nobile (Italy) and 11 others, crossed 90°N by airship *Norge* (flying Svalbard to Alaska), 12 May

Subsequently one other airship (1928), a tethered hot-air balloon (2012), helicopters and many other aircraft have flown over the North Pole

1937 Ivan Papanin (Soviet Union) and party landed at 89·43°N by aircraft from Zemlya Frantsa-Iosefa, established the first Arctic Ocean drift station, 21 May

1948 Aleksandr Kuznetsov (Soviet Union) and 23 others, landed from aircraft near, and traversed to, 90°N, 23 April

Subsequently many aircraft have landed in the vicinity of at the North Pole

1949 Vitaliy Volovich (Soviet Union), landed at the North Pole by parachute, 9 May

1958 William Anderson (United States), with crew aboard nuclear powered submarine USS *Nautilus*, reached the North Pole while submerged, 3 August, on voyage from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean

1959 James Calvert (United States), with crew aboard nuclear powered submarine USS *Skate*, surfaced at the North Pole, 17 March

Subsequently many submarines reached the North Pole and some surfaced there

1968 Ralph Plaisted (United States) and 3 others reached the North Pole by surface (snow scooter) with aircraft assistance, Canada, and returned by air, 19 April

1969 Wally Herbert (Britain) and 3 others reached the North Pole by dog-sledge, while crossing the Arctic Ocean (Alaska to Svalbard), 6 April

Subsequently several expeditions have crossed the Arctic on the pack-ice through the North Pole and many have made one-way surface journeys leaving aboard aircraft

1977 Yuriy Kuchiyev (Soviet Union), with crew aboard nuclear powered icebreaker *Arktika*, reached the North Pole by sea from near the Novosibirskiye Ostrova, 17 August

Subsequently many surface vessels have reached the North Pole

1991 Anatoly Gorshkovskiy (Soviet Union), with crew and passengers aboard the nuclear powered icebreaker *Sovetskiy Soyuz*, reached the North Pole by sea while crossing the Arctic Ocean (Murmansk to Provideniya), 4 August

2007 Artur Chilingarov (Russia) and Mike McDowell (Australia) led two submersible craft, each with a complement of 3, to the sea bed at the North Pole, 3 August