



# WEDDELL SEA EXPEDITION 2019

**Royal Geographical Society**  
with IBG

Advancing geography and geographical learning

## Aims of the expedition

**Follow** a ground-breaking 45-day expedition to the Weddell Sea, Antarctica with your class from January 2019 to see what discoveries the expedition researchers make

- **Discover** more about the Weddell Sea and the expedition's work through videos from its members, online animations and classroom resources
- **To follow the expedition**, visit [www.weddellseaexpedition.org/](http://www.weddellseaexpedition.org/) and for educational resources visit [www.rgs.org/wse](http://www.rgs.org/wse)

## Weddell Sea Facts

- Named after a Scottish sailor, James Weddell
- It is 2.8 million km<sup>2</sup> in size
- The Adélie penguin is the most numerous species of penguin
- The Weddell Sea is one of the hardest places in the world to get to because it is covered in sea ice
- Weddell seals are impressive divers, they can reach 600m depth and spend as long as 82 minutes underwater

- Undertake a major scientific research programme to study the Larsen C Ice Shelf
- Survey the rich marine life of the western Weddell Sea ecosystem
- Attempt to locate and survey the historic wreck of Sir Ernest Shackleton's ship *Endurance*

## Discover why the Weddell Sea is such an extreme environment



Ice sheet

Sea level

Ice shelf

Icebergs

Ice flow

**AUVs**  
Autonomous Underwater Vehicle

**ROVs**  
Remotely Operated Vehicle

Ocean water

Sea bed

**Sediment Corer**

## Explore what lies beneath the ice shelf and on the sea bed using state of the art technology

- Learn about where the **Weddell Sea** is and **why it is so important**
- Monitor a **newly exposed ecosystem** around the Larsen C ice shelf
- Learn how the equipment can **photograph, record and collect samples** from above and beneath the ice

## Search for Sir Ernest Shackleton's *Endurance* wreck

- Search for Sir Ernest Shackleton's expedition ship *Endurance* which was crushed by ice and lost in 3,000m deep water a century ago



'Frank Wild looks on at the wreck of the *Endurance*' Photograph by Frank Hurley  
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Weddell seals live farther south than any other mammal  
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