

S.A. Agulhas II

The Weddell Sea Expedition 2019 research ship

Did you know that Agulhas” is Portuguese for “Needles”.

Technical overview

- Built in 2012 by STX in Finland
- Gross tonnage: 12,897
- Length: 134m
- Power: 4 x 3000kW engines
- Polar Class 5: Can break ice 1m thick at 5 knots



Credit: Patrick Woodhead

Research facilities on board

Imagine having your science classrooms on board an ice breaker in the middle of the Weddell Sea. The S.A. Agulhas II has fully functioning biology, chemistry and geology laboratories.



Biology Lab



Chemistry Lab



Wet Geology Lab



Dry Geology Lab

KS3 Activity: In pairs, discuss the challenges that you think the scientists might encounter on board, when trying to carrying out their research.

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Life on board the S.A. Agulhas II

The expedition team will live on board the ship for 45 days.

- The vessel has 10 Decks
- Passenger cabins are located on deck 4, 5, 6
- Deck 3 and 8 accommodation is for the Ship's Officer's and Crew
- Deck 9 is where the Wheelhouse/Bridge is located
- Deck 10 is an open upper deck with a partially enclosed viewing cubicle
- Outer decks are accessible to Passenger's, however, it is controlled
- The Business Centre, Auditorium, Laundry, Gym and Sauna is on Deck 4
- The Passenger Dining Room and Canteen is on Deck 4 forward
- The Library, Helicopter briefing room and Hospital are on the port side of deck 5
- Scientific Laboratories, moon pool, side door and aft deck is on deck 3



Activity: Imagine that you are on board the ship. Write an email/record a message to someone at home. Describe where you are, what you are feeling and whether are you missing anything? Remember that you have been away for a long time.

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