

## MEDIA RELEASE

### AE Expeditions to welcome third small ship, Douglas Mawson to fleet



**London, 3 April 2024** – AE Expeditions (part of Aurora Expeditions), the award-winning Australian-owned expedition travel company, is excited to announce that it will soon welcome its third purpose-built small expedition ship, *Douglas Mawson* to its family of pioneering vessels.

Due to begin sailing in late 2025, *Douglas Mawson's* inaugural season will also mark AE Expeditions' return to East Antarctica for the first time in 15 years, with new itineraries to include a *Mawson's Antarctica* voyage to East Antarctica in honour of the ship's namesake, departing from Hobart.

*Douglas Mawson* will carry an average of 154 passengers and will be the newest Infinity Class vessel to enter the market, joining the company's sister ships, also named after pioneers in their field, *Greg Mortimer* and *Sylvia Earle*.

The small ship will feature the latest and greatest revolutionary Ulstein X-BOW®, designed for smoother and faster ocean crossings and world-leading fuel efficiency, and will offer Nordic interior design features with stylish and comfortable staterooms and suites across 11 different categories, most featuring private balconies. For the first time, AE Expeditions will also offer several single berth cabins to cater for the growing solo traveller segment.

Public spaces include two restaurants, two bars, an outdoor heated swimming pool, pool bar and Jacuzzis, a gym and sauna, relaxation and wellness areas, a library lounge, a citizen science centre and lecture theatre, and expansive observation decks offering panoramic views of wilderness and wildlife.

"We're thrilled to be launching the newest and final Infinity Class vessel, which we have named in honour of pioneering Australian geologist and explorer, Sir Douglas Mawson," commented CEO Michael Heath.

"We are equally delighted to be offering passengers new itineraries departing from Australia as part of the ship's inaugural season, including an exploration of Mawson's Antarctica, which will visit Mawson's Huts at Cape Denison, Commonwealth Bay, and New Zealand's Subantarctic Islands.

“AE Expeditions has pioneered expedition travel to the world’s most remote places for more than three decades, and we know that exploration is not just about what you see, but *how* you see it. That is why we are committed to delivering life changing experiences with the newest, most advanced technology available, and with the most experienced and passionate team in the industry,” he added.

Commenting on the naming of the ship, CMO Hayley Peacock-Gower said: “AE Expeditions takes great inspiration from the incredible legacy of Sir Douglas Mawson. Indeed, it was Mawson’s SY Aurora vessel that inspired our founder, Greg Mortimer, to name our company Aurora. Like its namesake, *Douglas Mawson* will be a ship that’s on the forefront of global ocean discovery.

“We also look forward to our partnership with the Mawson’s Huts Foundation – a custodian of Australia’s Antarctic heritage and advocate for Antarctic science education for children – and supporting the fantastic work they do to preserve the Mawson’s Huts complex and bring the stories and achievements of Sir Douglas Mawson and his Australasian Antarctic Expedition 1911-14 to life,” she added.

“We can’t wait to welcome *Douglas Mawson* to our fleet of small ships, and we look forward to announcing the full program of voyages for the new ship, which will offer passengers incredible expeditions in the polar regions, as well as some exciting new destinations.”

Like the company’s sister ships, *Douglas Mawson* is designed to be a comfortable base camp for adventure, with Zodiac access points, a changing room and mudroom preparing passengers for off-ship and on-shore activities, while a dedicated science centre is the hub for a variety of participative and educational Citizen Science programs.

AE Expeditions plans to commence voyages on *Douglas Mawson* in December 2025, with the inaugural voyage and full program to be announced soon.

Those who pre-register their interest in *Douglas Mawson*’s inaugural Antarctica 2025/2026 season before 18 April 2024 are eligible to receive an additional USD 2,000 per couple\* off their trip with AE Expeditions.

*Douglas Mawson* Pre-Registration: [www.aexpeditions.co.uk/pre-register-douglas-mawson](http://www.aexpeditions.co.uk/pre-register-douglas-mawson)

Learn more about *Douglas Mawson* at [www.aexpeditions.co.uk/ship/douglas-mawson](http://www.aexpeditions.co.uk/ship/douglas-mawson)

\*Terms and conditions apply

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**About Aurora Expeditions**

Aurora Expeditions is an award-winning Australian-owned expedition company pioneering experiential travel for over 33 years. A Certified B Corporation™, Aurora is deeply committed to environmentally respectful travel to preserve the beauty and majesty that mother nature possesses, and we take real actions for the care of the planet. Founded on the guiding principles of adventure and endless exploration, the small ship experience is intimate and friendly. Aurora Expeditions takes travellers on perspective-altering experiences to some of the planet’s most

remote and incredible places. Aurora's two purpose-built small ships, *Greg Mortimer* and *Sylvia Earle* are designed for global discovery.