



# Gateway to Antarctica Exhibition

26 March - 8 April 2015

An exhibition of 11 paintings of historic Antarctic ships by world-renowned artist, Peter Bilas.

The paintings, previously on the (old) *S.A. Agulhas*, have been restored and will have a rare public appearance before being transferred to the (new) *S.A. Agulhas II*.

**Iziko Maritime Centre, V&A Waterfront, Cape Town**  
**Tel 021 405 2880**  
or [www.iziko.org.za/museums/maritime-centre](http://www.iziko.org.za/museums/maritime-centre)



Sir Ernest Shackleton



## Cape Town - Gateway to Antarctica

One of the less well-known attributes of Cape Town is that it is one of the "Gateway to Antarctica" cities. The logistics arm of the South African National Antarctic Programme is based at East Pier in the Cape Town Docks just beyond the V&A Waterfront. Cape Town is also a re-victualling station of other nations, including Germany and Norway. In addition there are direct flights from Cape Town International Airport to the ice runway in Dronning Maud Land in Antarctica, near to SANAE IV, South Africa's Antarctic base.

As a means of raising awareness of South Africa's involvement in Antarctica and in the Southern Ocean, during the 2015 Easter holiday period the Ship Society of South Africa in collaboration with the Antarctic Legacy Project of Stellenbosch University has arranged an exhibition of paintings of historic Antarctic ships in the Iziko Maritime Centre in the Union-Castle Building, opposite the entrance to the Victoria and Alfred Hotel in the V&A Waterfront.

The 11 paintings are by world-renowned maritime artist, Peter Bilas, and were commissioned by Bill Leith, Captain of South Africa's former Antarctic supply ship, the *S.A. Agulhas*. Prior to being transferred to her successor, *S.A. Agulhas II*, the paintings have been restored (sponsored by GAC Shipping) and, courtesy of the Department of Environmental Affairs, will now be on public display for the first (and probably only) time.

The paintings include...

- Cook's Resolution* (1772),
- Bellinghousen's *Vostok* and *Mirny* (1821),
- Ross' *Terror* and *Erebus* (1840),
- Challenger* (1873),
- Amundsen's *Fram* (1910),
- Scott's *Terra Nova* (1910),
- Shackleton's *Endurance* (1915),
- R.S.A.* (1961)
- S.A. Agulhas* (1978).

The paintings are accompanied by a brief description of the history of the vessels and some other Antarctic memorabilia.

The exhibition runs from Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March to Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April and the Maritime Centre will be open daily from 10h00 to 17h00.

Entrance to the Maritime Centre is R20 (Adults), R10 (Children 6-18, SA Students and Pensioners), R50 (Family ticket for 2 adults and 2 children). Under 5's are free.

**There is no additional charge to visit the painting exhibition.**

