

MEDIA RELEASE

Aurora Expeditions calls for applications for BIG Arctic Climate Expedition with Dr Sylvia Earle



SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA (21/05/2024) – Aurora Expeditions, the Australian-owned adventure travel company known for immersive, responsible exploration, is calling for applications to join a groundbreaking expedition to the Arctic, in partnership with Dr Sylvia Earle and Ocean Geographic.

The Bears, Ice, Glaciers Arctic Climate Expedition (BIG ACE), sailing in June 2025 from Longyearbyen, Svalbard, will seek to lobby for the protection of the Arctic, foster a collective appreciation of our planet's fragility and mitigate the impact of climate change through the power of the arts.

Hosted by Dr Sylvia Earle in her 90th birthday year, the expedition will honour Dr Earle's lifelong advocacy for the world's oceans by inviting changemaker passengers to use their own voice, contributing their various talents or 'superpowers' to instigate meaningful conversations and spur action to safeguard the planet for future generations.

"The Arctic is a vital region of the planet. It has a major role in shaping Earth's climate. The BIG ACE is a profoundly significant project that calls for the convergence of 110 great minds; you are invited to be part of the action, to join, to be a voice," commented Dr Sylvia Earle.

Aurora Expeditions' CEO Michael Heath commented: "We are incredibly proud to be partnering with Dr Sylvia Earle and Ocean Geographic on this remarkable initiative, following the success of our Antarctic Climate Expedition in 2023.

"At Aurora Expeditions, our purpose is to inspire all passengers who join our expeditions to become passionate lifelong ambassadors for the planet. As a B Corp, we know that to protect and regenerate our shared planet, we must all work together. We believe that expedition travel holds a unique opportunity to educate and inspire people into action, and our hope is that initiatives like BIG ACE can contribute to the protection of the wild and awe-inspiring places we visit, including the Arctic."

On this remarkable voyage, passengers will experience the dramatic scenery of Svalbard – the kingdom of the polar bear – including majestic fjords, glaciers and incredible Arctic wildlife, while witnessing firsthand the impact of climate change in the high Arctic environment.

On board, invaluable insights will be provided by seasoned naturalists and climate science experts, while activities will also be designed to inspire passengers towards environmental stewardship and sustainable living, including workshops covering topics such as essay writing, fine art painting, photography, and public speaking, along with a kayaking and scuba diving program for off ship adventures.

This expedition isn't confined to scientists and researchers; people of all ages, nationalities, educational and professional backgrounds are encouraged to apply to lend their voices and abilities and contribute to making climate discourse more accessible, compelling, and diverse.

Applicants will be asked about the creative mediums they will use to speak for the Arctic, which could include storytelling via writing or film production, poetry, music, art, education, lobbying and more.

The Voyage

The 13-day BIG ACE High Arctic Odyssey will depart on June 23, 2025, sailing on the purpose-built expedition ship, the *Sylvia Earle*, named in honour of Dr Earle herself. Beginning in Longyearbyen, Svalbard and navigating northward to go beyond 80°N, the voyage will proceed (weather permitting) eastward towards Kritøya, circling around Austfonna, one of the largest glaciers on the planet.

Dr Earle added: "Ocean Geographic, Aurora Expeditions and I invite you to give your voice to the Arctic. Please consider applying to come on board and being a part of the solution. Do what you can to really have an impact on the future of our relationship with life on Earth."

For more information and to apply* visit: www.auroraexpeditions.com.au/arctic-climate-expedition-2025-ocean-geographic

*Terms and conditions apply

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Notes to Editors

Image credits: Polar bear in Svalbard, credit Divergent Travelers/Aurora Expeditions

About Aurora Expeditions

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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 responsible 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. The company's third ship, *Douglas Mawson*, will set sail in December 2025.