

‡11 Concise Chronology of Approaches to the Poles

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(Originally 1 December 1993. Revised 12 May 1995.)

The following Antarctic and Arctic lists give explorations, in chronological order, towards the South Pole and the North Pole, their attainment (air and surface, and by sea in the Arctic), and the first crossings of the regions. There are several claims included for which supporting evidence is insufficient and doubts exist regarding what was accomplished. The units of measurement are in the form recommended by the *Système Internationale d'Unités*, thus latitudes are given in degrees with decimal fractions (arcminutes are not used), and grads follow in brackets [^g].

A ANTARCTIC

- 1603 Gabriel de Castilla (Spain), with a ship's company, probably penetrated the Southern Ocean south of Drake Passage
Subsequently several merchant vessels reported being blown south of 60° S [66.67^gS] rounding Cabo de Hornos in severe weather
- 1773 James Cook (Britain), with companies aboard HMS *Resolution* and HMS *Adventure*, crossed the Antarctic Circle (66.53° S [73.92^gS]) off Enderby Land, 17 January
- 1774 James Cook (Britain) on the same expedition reached 71.17° S [79.08^gS] off Marie Byrd Land, 30 January
- 1820 Fabian von Bellingshausen (Russia), with companies aboard *Vostok* and *Mirnyy*, sighted the Antarctic continent at about 69.35° S [77.06^gS] off Dronning Maud Land, 27 January
- 1823 James Weddell (Britain), with company aboard *Jane*, reached 74.25° S [82.50^gS] in the Weddell Sea, 20 February
- 1842 James Ross (Britain), with companies aboard HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror*, reached 78.17° S [86.86^gS] in the Ross Sea, 23 February
- 1900 Hugh Evans (Britain) and 3 others sledged to 78.83° S [87.59^gS] on the Ross Ice Shelf, 23 February
- 1902 Robert Scott (Britain) and 2 others sledged to 82.28° S [91.42^gS] on the Ross Ice Shelf, 30 December
- 1909 Ernest Shackleton (Britain) and 3 others sledged to 88.38° S [98.20^gS], 9 January
- 1911 Roald Amundsen (Norway) and 4 others dog-sledged to 90° S [100^gS], 14 December

- 1912 Robert Scott (Britain) and 4 others sledged to 90°S [100°S], 17 January (all perished during the return journey)
- 1929 Richard Byrd (United States), with an aircraft crew, claimed to have flown over the South Pole from the Ross Ice Shelf, 29 November
- 1947 Richard Byrd (United States), with an aircraft crew, flew over the South Pole from the Ross Ice Shelf, 15 February
- 1956 John Torbert (United States) and 6 others flew across Antarctica over the South Pole (Ross Island to Weddell Sea and returned without landing), 13 January
- 1956 Conrad Shinn (United States), with crew of an aircraft, landed at the South Pole, 31 October; a permanent station was then established, sustained by aircraft
Subsequently many aircraft have landed at the South Pole
- 1958 Vivian Fuchs (British Commonwealth) and an expeditionary party reached the South Pole by motor vehicles and sledge dogs, 20 January, and continued to cross Antarctica (Weddell Sea to Ross Sea)
Subsequently several expeditions have crossed the Antarctic through the South Pole by surface and many have made one-way surface journeys departing by aircraft

B ARCTIC

- 1553 Sir Hugh Willoughby (England), with companies aboard *Bona Esperanza* and *Bona Confidentia*, reached 72°N [80°N] on Novaya Zemlya, 14 August
- 1587 John Davis (England), with companies aboard *Elizabeth*, *Ellen*, & *Sunshine*, reached 72.20°N [80.22°N] off Greenland, July
- 1594 Willem Barentsz (Netherlands), with a ship's company, reached 77°N [85.6°N], rounding Novaya Zemlya
- 1596 Jacob van Heemskerck (Netherlands), with companies aboard 2 vessels, reached 80.18°N [89.09°N] off Svalbard, 17 June
- 1607 Henry Hudson (Britain), with company aboard *Hopewell*, reached 80.38°N [89.31°N] off Svalbard, 16 July
- 1766 Vasily Chichagov (Russia), with companies aboard *Chichagov*, *Panov*, and *Babayev*, reached 80.47°N [89.41°N] off Svalbard, 16 July
- 1773 Constantine Phipps (Britain), with companies aboard *Racehorse* & *Carcass*, reached 80.80°N [89.78°N] off Svalbard, 27 July
Subsequently many whaling vessels reached high latitudes
- 1806 William Scoresby (Britain), with company aboard *Resolution*, reached 81.50°N [90.56°N] off Svalbard
- 1827 William Parry (Britain) and party, with 2 sledge boats from *Hecla*, reached 82.75°N [91.94°N] off Svalbard, 25 July
This position is farther north than the area inhabited by the Polar Eskimo of Greenland
- 1876 Albert Markham (Britain) and 2 sledge parties reached 83.34°N [92.60°N] off Ellesmere Island, 12 May
- 1882 James Lockwood (United States) and 2 others dog-sledged to 83.40°N [92.67°N] off Greenland from Fort Conger, 13 May
- 1895 Fridtjof Nansen and Hjalmar Johansen (Norway) dog-sledged to 86.22°N [95.80°N] from *Fram* in the Arctic Ocean, 8 April
- 1900 Umberto Cagni (Italy) & 3 others claimed to have dog-sledged to 86.57°N [96.19°N] from Zemlya Frantsa-Iosefa, 24 April

- 1908 Frederick Cook (United States), with a sledge party, claimed to have reached 90°N [100°N], 21 April
- 1909 Robert Peary (United States) and an expeditionary party, dog-sledged to 87.75°N [97.50°N] from Ellesmere Island, 31 March; Peary and 5 others continued north and possibly passed 88°N [97.8°N]
- 1909 Robert Peary (United States), with a sledge party, claimed to have reached 90°N [100°N], 6 April
- 1925 Roald Amundsen (Norway), Lincoln Ellsworth (United States), and 4 others flew north from Svalbard in 2 aircraft, crash landed and drifted to 87.83°N [97.59°N], 21 May
- 1926 Richard Byrd (United States), with Floyd Bennett, claimed to have reached 90°N [100°N] by air from Svalbard, 9 May
- 1926 Roald Amundsen (Norway), Lincoln Ellsworth (United States), Umberto Nobile (Italy), and 11 others, crossed 90°N [100°N] by airship *Norge* (flying Svalbard to Alaska), 12 May
Subsequently one dirigible balloon and many other aircraft have flown over the North Pole
- 1937 Ivan Papanin (Soviet Union) and party landed at 89.43°N [99.37°N] by aircraft from Zemlya Frantsa-Iosefa, established the first Arctic Ocean drift station, 21 May
- 1948 Pavel Gordiyenko (Soviet Union) and 5 others landed at 90°N [100°N] from an aircraft, 23 April
Subsequently many aircraft have landed at the North Pole
- 1958 John Anderson (United States), with crew aboard nuclear powered submarine *USS Nautilus*, reached the North Pole while submerged, 3 August, on voyage from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean
- 1959 James Calvert (United States), with crew aboard nuclear powered submarine *USS Skate*, surfaced at the North Pole, 17 March
Subsequently many submarines reached the North Pole and some surfaced there
- 1968 Ralph Plaisted (United States) and 3 others reached 90°N [100°N] by surface (snow scooter) from Canada and returned by air, 19 April
- 1969 Wally Herbert (Britain) and 3 others dog-sledged to 90°N [100°N], while crossing the Arctic Ocean (Alaska to Svalbard), 6 April
Subsequently several expeditions have crossed the Arctic on the pack-ice through the North Pole and many have made one-way surface journeys departing by air
- 1977 Yuriy Kuchiyevev (Soviet Union), with crew aboard nuclear powered icebreaker *Arktika*, reached 90°N [100°N] by sea from near the Novosibirskiye Ostrova, 17 August
Subsequently many surface vessels have reached the North Pole
- 1991 Anatoly Gorshkovskiy (Soviet Union), with crew and passengers aboard the nuclear powered icebreaker *Sovetskiy Soyuz*, reached the North Pole by sea while crossing the Arctic Ocean (Murmansk to Provideniya), 4 August

Some of these claims are controversial and have given rise to much discussion. There is a way of resolving the question of precedence at the poles by a simple modification of the question. A secure answer may be given to *Who was the first to see both poles?*

On 14 December 1911 Roald Amundsen and Oskar Wisting were at the South Pole, and both were over the North Pole aboard *Norge* on 12 May 1926; thus they became the first to have seen the South Pole and the North Pole.