

EXTRA EXTRA!

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Toblerone named key essential on Antarctic mission

This is an edited version of a story from
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"You always need to bring your favourite chocolate bar with you," Natalie Ensor laughs, as she prepares to spend three months in Antarctica.

The lab manager is one of 34 crew and about 25 scientists departing on the 5,000-mile journey on the UK's RRS Sir David Attenborough on Sunday.

The research ship will return in July 2025, but many of the British Antarctic Survey team will only be on board for a few months at a time.

"The chocolate on board is fantastic, but it is communal, so when it runs down you don't have any," Ms Ensor continued.

In her suitcase is a bar of Toblerone and a box of Belgian chocolate seashells, as well as sewing kits and colouring books to keep her busy in the evening.

Theresa Gussmann also works in the ship's labs, which span the size of four tennis courts.

She said her packing essentials were fairy lights and photos of her family and friends to decorate her cabin.

"I love it, it's always very fun," said Ms Gussmann, who has worked for the British Antarctic Survey for two years.

"You meet lots of people, you discover lots of different science you don't necessarily get exposed to if you're just working in one specific lab.



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"Here, you can go from marine biology to physical oceanography to atmospheric science, so it's just really great to be able to see what can be done in just one ship."

The ship has accommodation for up to 90 people, and announcements can be heard on board – some of them voiced by the vessel's namesake, Sir David Attenborough.

Crew have access to facilities like a hospital, gym, sauna, and coffee shop. Captain Ralph Stevens said he was used to what was and was not available after working at sea for 26 years.

"It's just so wonderful to be able to go down to the Antarctic and work with the scientists who are so passionate about what they do.

"Usually, I pop up to the supermarket and get a year's worth of shower gel."

The ship was once set to be called Boaty McBoatface after a public vote in 2016. Biological scientist Geraint Tarling, who will be joining the mission later, said the quirky name lived on.

"We've kept the name, and what we have is an underwater drone... that we send out on missions, and we call that Boaty McBoatface. That's a great way of keeping the name alive within the organisation."

TRUE OR FALSE?

Not all news is based on truth. Do you think this story is based on true or false news?

Antarctica changes in size at different times of the year.



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CHECK YOUR FACTS

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WHAT
is Theresa
packing to
remind her of
home?

ANSWER:
Fairy lights
and photos

WHO
voices some
of the ship's
announcements?

ANSWER:
Sir David
Attenborough

WHERE
are the scientists
departing to?

ANSWER:
Antarctica

WHEN
will the ship
return?

ANSWER:
Next July

WHY
does Natalie
advise packing
chocolate?

ANSWER:
The communal
chocolate runs
out fast!

HOW
many people
can fit on
the ship?

ANSWER:
90 people



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