

## ExWeb Dispatches | Series 2: Antarctica

Matthew Traver

<https://explorersweb.com/2020/07/14/exweb-dispatches-series-2-antarctica/>

In this series, we head south to Antarctica as Ryan Waters, Jaco Ottink and Paula Strengell embark on a two-month expedition from Hercules Inlet to the South Pole.



Video Episode 1: Punta Arenas to Hercules Inlet

<https://youtu.be/PU2YP7arOyI>

Video Episode 2: Hercules Inlet to the South Pole

<https://youtu.be/jsJfzDwSBE>

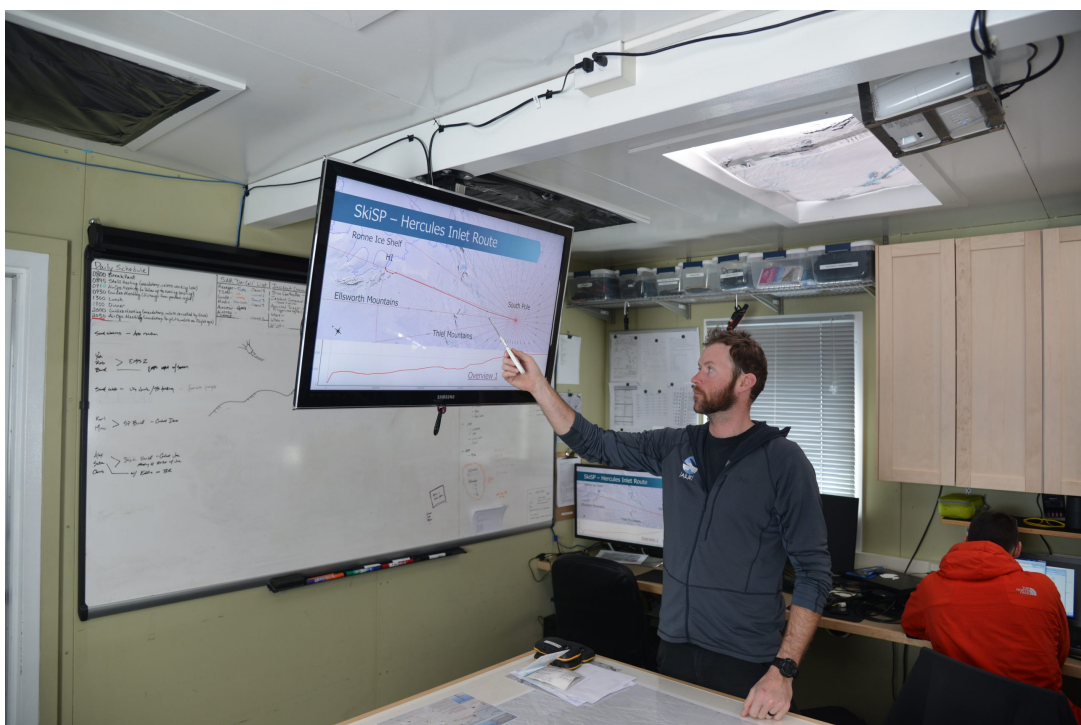
Hercules Inlet to South Pole Expedition Photos: All video and photo footage by: Ryan Waters and Jaco Ottink



Inside the Soviet-era Ilyushin IL-76, which ferries visitors from Punta Arenas, Chile to Union Glacier, Antarctica. For those missing pre-00s air travel, take note of the single drop-down movie screen.



A lonely metal Christmas tree stands guard beside one of Union Glacier's ice roads.



Up to 160 people live in Union Glacier Camp, including chefs, mechanics, pilots, engineers, scientists, and more. Above, one of UG's residents offers some intel on the Hercules-South Pole route.



The Ellsworth Mountains between Union Glacier and Hercules Inlet. A 2016 study by the British Antarctic Survey found that only 0.18% of the continent is snow- and ice-free.



Hauling a sled over the sastrugi



The Antarctic Treaty System governs Antarctica, and no one officially owns the continent, although seven countries have territorial claims over differently sized slices, and approximately 30 countries have a permanent research station.