

Wouter & Michael's Solo Newsletter

Monday 14 Mar 2022

What's On

Sun 20 Mar - MotoGP Grand Prix of Indonesia & Formula 1 Bahrain Grand Prix

A double header this weekend, with the MotoGP being held in Lombok. Place to be - Manir's Family Kitchen.

Coming Up

Sun 27 Mar Formula 1 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix

Sat 2 Apr Beginning of Ramadan

Sun 3 Apr Gran Premio Michelin de la Republica Argentina

Sun 10 Apr Red Bull Grand Prix of the Americas

Sun 10 Apr Formula 1 Heineken Australian Grand Prix

Fri 15 Apr Good Friday

Sun 24 Apr Grande Premio de Portugal

Sun 24 Apr Formula 1 Rolex Grande Premio dell'Emilia Romagna

Fri 29 Apr Solo Menari dance festival

The News This Week

Discovery of the Endurance

A team of researchers has discovered the wreck of Ernest

Shackleton's *Endurance* vessel on the Antarctic sea floor. Carried out by the Endurance22 Expedition and announced this week by the Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust, the exciting discovery puts an end to a century-old maritime mystery.

The helm of Shackleton's *Endurance*



Scientists used submersibles to capture images and video of the shipwreck, which is protected as a historic site and will remain undisturbed. It rests 9,842 feet below the surface of the Weddell Sea, a pocket of the Southern Ocean east of the Antarctic Peninsula. "We have made polar history with the discovery of Endurance, and successfully completed the world's most challenging shipwreck search," says expedition leader John Shears in a statement.



Endurance was last seen in 1915, when Irish-British explorer Shackleton (1874-1922) and his 27 men watched in dismay as the ship sank into the icy depths. The crew's mission, as members of the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, was a daring plan to reach the South Pole by traveling over the then-unmapped terrain of the East Antarctic.

Endurance immobilized in pack ice, as captured by crew photographer Frank Hurley in 1915

Charismatic, reckless and obsessed with the South Pole, Shackleton was a major figure in what came to be known as the heroic age of Antarctic exploration in the early 20th century, which included treks by Norwegian Roald Amundsen, who in 1911 was the first to reach the pole, and by Robert Falcon Scott, a Briton who died after reaching it a month late.

Shackleton and his crew set off from South Georgia island in 1914 despite warnings from whalers that the ice conditions in Weddell Sea were some of the worst in memory. Disaster struck in 1915 when the ship became trapped in the pack ice. For ten months, the immobilized vessel floated along while crew members camped on ice floes and waited for their surroundings to thaw.

Ernest Shackleton

But as spring arrived in September, the pressure of the shifting ice began to warp, crush and twist the boat's wooden frame. By October, the ship had flooded beyond repair and all hopes of a return trip were lost. "She's going, boys," a crewmember reportedly cried in October as the hull was rent to pieces. "It's time to get off." The ship eventually slipped beneath the surface on November 21, 1915.



Shackleton and his crew set out from Elephant Island on the arduous 800 mile journey to South Georgia

Shackleton's subsequent voyage to rescue his crew went down in history as one of the greatest examples of grit, leadership and luck in the annals of Antarctic expeditions. First, the crew survived a harrowing five days at sea to land three lifeboats at Elephant Island, where they set up a makeshift camp. Shackleton and five others then navigated a treacherous 800-mile journey on a small whaling boat to reach help on South Georgia island. That open-sea journey, navigated by Capt. Frank Worsley, is considered one of the epic small boat voyages ever undertaken across some of the steepest, harshest seas in the world. Thanks to Shackleton's efforts and those of his crew, all 28 men survived and were rescued in 1917.

Researchers used two submersible crafts to scan the Antarctic sea floor for signs of the shipwreck

Biographers and historians have chronicled the details of the *Endurance* saga for years. But the precise location of the wreck itself remained a mystery—until now. With contemporary technology at their disposal and captain Worsley's notes in hand, *Endurance22* set out in February to discover the site of the wreck. The team traveled





aboard the *S.A. Agulhas II*, a South African icebreaker and polar research vessel. The \$10 million project was funded by an anonymous private individual.

The South African icebreaker *S.A. Agulhas II* was leased to search for the *Endurance*

They searched for two weeks, using two submersible crafts to scan the sea floor in a 150-square-mile area. Researchers discovered the first signs of the shipwreck a few days ago.. The site where *Endurance* eventually sank turned out to be just four miles south of where Worsley, the ship's captain, had predicted it lay. Cold Antarctic

temperatures have kept the 144-foot, three-masted wooden ship in stunning condition, scientists report. Images reveal that the bold capital letters of the ship's name are still intact and visible above the stern.

“Without any exaggeration this is the finest wooden shipwreck I have ever seen - by far,” marine archaeologist and expedition director Mensun Bound said. “It is upright, well proud of the seabed, intact, and in a brilliant state of preservation,” Bound adds. “You can see a porthole that is Shackleton's cabin. At that moment, you really do feel the breath of the great man upon the back of your neck.”

Experts flocked to Twitter to express congratulations and offer analyses. Marine biogeographer Huw Griffiths posted a crowdsourced thread where he identified Antarctic deep-sea creatures visible in the photos of the wreck, including “huge” Antarctic sea anemones and sea squirts. Deep-sea polar biologist Michelle Taylor of Essex University tells that the creatures, which include brittlestars and crinoids, are “all filter feeding from the cool deep waters of the Weddell Sea.”

The wreck is remarkably well-preserved



Others described an ecstatic mood onboard when the team discovered the wreck. “I got goose bumps,” wrote Stefanie Arndt, a sea ice physicist who participated in the expedition, on Twitter. When the wreck was first spotted, she was at work with fellow researchers on the ice nearby—“just where Shackleton's men have been. The footage is breathtaking,” Arndt added. “I am overwhelmed.”



Solo News **Lawu Eruption**

Gunung Lawu to the east of Solo, is very sacred to the people of this town. It looks benign, but is it really safe?> After all, Merapi on the other side is one of the most active volcanoes in the world,erupting regularly every few years. And on almost all the high mountains in Java, there is volcanic action, usually in the form of fumeroles issuing steam and poisonous sulphur gases.

Dutch climbers at the summit of Mt Lawu in 1930

The earliest recorded activity occured on November 28, 1885. On that occasion, there were a lot of earthquakes, accompanied by noise like

rolling thunder and volcanic ash. This was repeated again between December 1978 and May 1979. That's not so long ago.

On the southern flanks of Lawu at 2,550m is quite an active fumarole called Condrodimuko. When climbing the popular Cemoro Sewu route to the peak, between Post 2 and Post 3 the trail passes quite close to this spot. The sulphurous smell is often strong, especially in the morning. The original path went right by the crater., but in the 1960's landsliders and other problems caused the track to be rebuilt further away.

According to some volcanologists, Lawu has a real possibility to erupt in the near future. If it does, it could cause immense devastation the nearby inhabitants and the local economy. The lower slopes are filled with market gardens, thriving on the rich volcanic soil. It has come a mecca for tourism, with myriads of restaurants, selfie spots, coffee shops and all the rest sprouting up on all sides of the mountain. The good news is that the Indonesian government is constantly monitoring seismic activity with sophisticated instruments, and should be able to give ample warning of any impending danger.



The Condrodimuko crater

Rewards For Getting This Far





Quote: I was in Little League. I was on first base: I stole third. I ran straight across the diamond. Earlier in the week, I learned the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. I argued with the ump that second base was out of my way. American comedian Steven Wright (1955-)

Thought for the week: When nothing is going right, go left.

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