



David Hochman, Contributor

I cover everything you didn't know you needed to know about L.A.

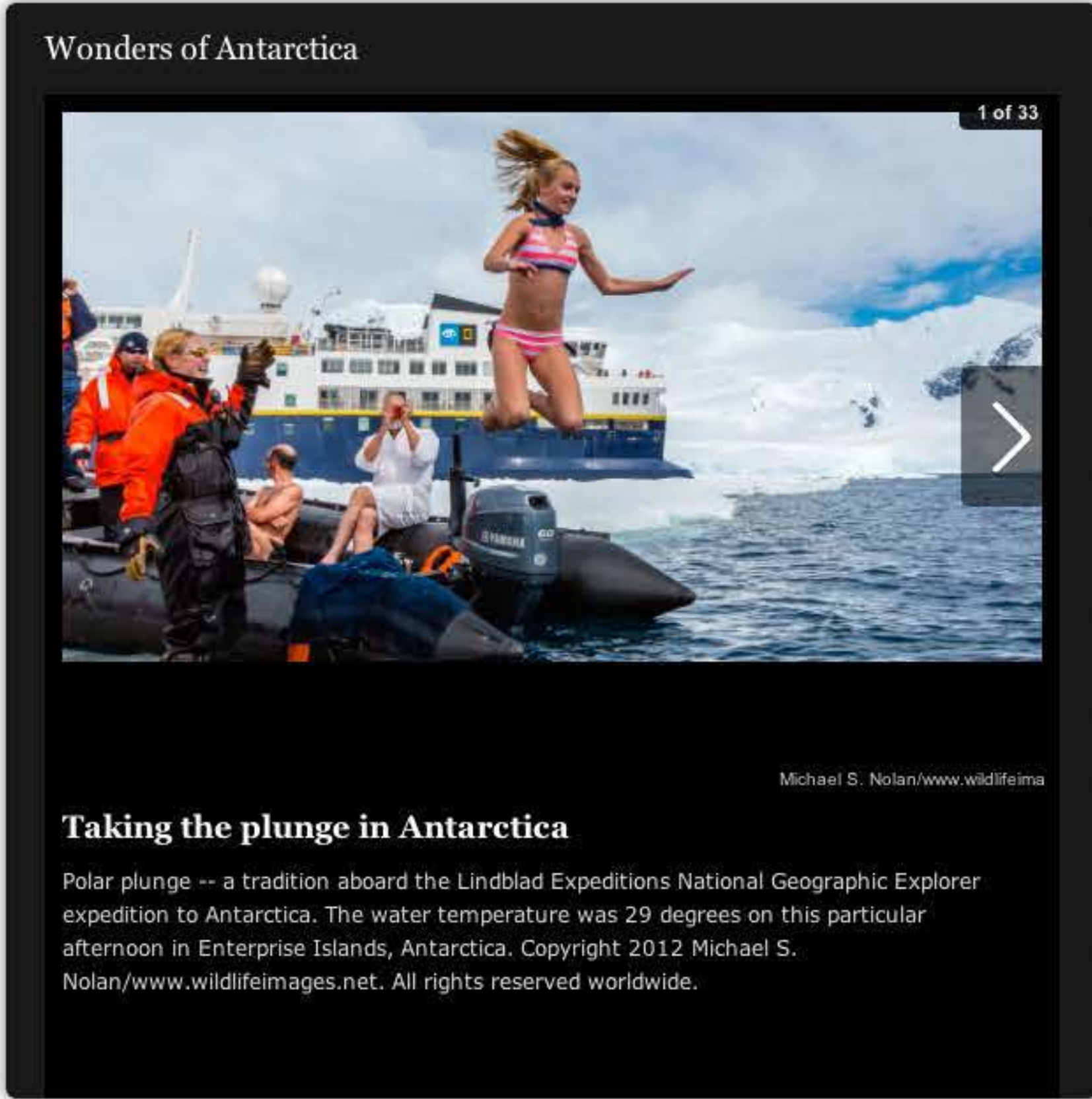
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# 33 Unforgettable Images Of Antarctica

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Antarctica is the coldest, driest, highest, windiest, iciest, loneliest continent on the planet. So



naturally, I decided to head there on vacation with my wife this month. Occasionally, I venture away from [Los Angeles](#). Far away. Because who needs Palm Springs when you can shrinkwrap yourself in Gore Tex and stare at icebergs [as big as New York City?](#)

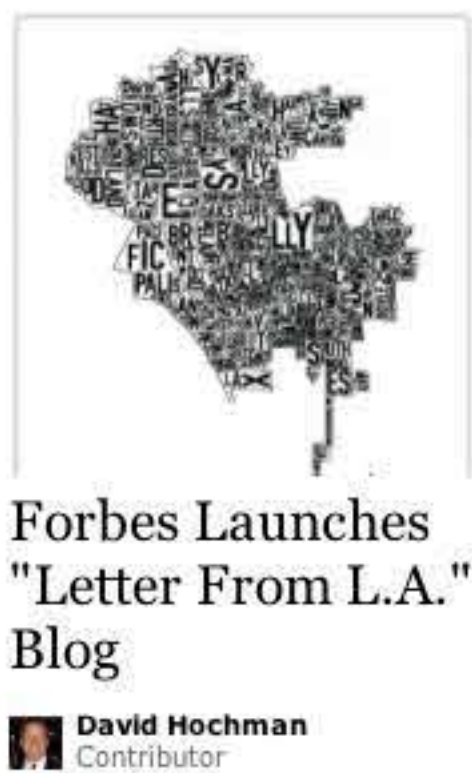


To be fair, the “expedition” was cushier than it sounds. Onboard [Lindblad Expeditions’ National Geographic Explorer](#), a 356-foot ice-class ship, we were part of a 148-passenger adventure cruise that let us play [Ernest Shackleton](#) by day and dine on Argentinian Prime Beef Tenderloin at night. The Explorer has a spa, an elegant lounge and dining room and a high-tech presentation area for daily briefings, [TED-like lectures](#) and daily video recaps. I also brewed some great L.A. coffee onboard ([but that’s another story](#)).



If only I could convey the majesty of what we saw. Huge tabular icebergs, frosty slopes dotted with adorable gentoo and chinstrap penguins. Frozen oceans! Killer whales! The midnight sun! Even as I sat gazing at the glory of it all, I knew it wouldn’t translate when people back home said, “So what was the highlight?”

I do have some photos, however, and here are a few favorites. If you’re viewing this on a laptop or even a nice-sized monitor, take a breath and imagine experiencing the scenes as we did — with eyes wide open and jaws agape in the shimmering outsized landscape of a continent that really is earth’s last frontier.



Let it be said again that Antarctica is among the fastest warming places on earth. Antarctic ice sheets are melting now three times faster than they did in the 1990s, [a new scientific study says](#). At the other end of the planet, documentarians recently captured [the largest icefall ever recorded on film](#).

All of which makes a visit to the polar regions more imperative — and more poignant — than ever. What my wife and I saw in Antarctica this month was truly awe-inspiring, if only because we’ll never see it the same way again.

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I believe Los Angeles is the city of the future. I write regularly for Forbes Life and many other publications including The New York Times, Esquire, Parade, O Magazine, Playboy, Details, GQ, Town & Country, Food & Wine, Travel + Leisure and more. I oversee an online community of free agents called Upod (Google it) and run a school for free

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