

FACT SHEET

1. WHITE DESERT ANTARCTICA - INTRODUCTION

White Desert was established by record-breaking polar explorer duo Patrick and Robyn Woodhead in 2005. Born out of a desire to allow people other than scientists and polar explorers to see the wonders of the interior of Antarctica, the company has been established for 18 years and employs 100 people from 17 different nationalities. The company is vertically integrated and the only operator to fly guests by private charter directly from Cape Town to Antarctica, landing on their own unique blue-ice runway.

Founded with environmentally conscious principles at its core, White Desert's mission is to create a positive impact on Antarctica's future. A pioneer of low-impact practices the company has been carbon neutral since 2007 and has diversified over the last two years using its aviation and ground logistics to transport scientists to their Antarctic research stations and support scientific missions, such as the [#Endurance22](#) expedition. White Desert is currently leading the field with testing sustainable aviation fuels across its fleet and supports the goals of the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) to protect – and inspire the future stewardship of – Antarctica's unique environment.

2. WHAT WE OFFER

In a corner of the world that is characterised by pristine vistas, dramatic mountain ranges and unique wildlife encounters, White Desert has taken the hardship out of exploration and transformed the isolated beauty of Antarctica into an exclusive backdrop for adventure.

Winner of multiple travel awards, White Desert comprises three luxury camps; Echo (opening in December 2022), Whichaway and Wolf's Fang. Each camp is small, hosting up to 12 people where you will savour gourmet meals and luxuriously appointed accommodation, enjoy a sauna with view of the glacier, sip cocktails made with 10,000 year old ice, and cross off bucket list adventures like visiting the South Pole, ice climbing, hiking over ice waves, and coming face-to-face with 28,000 Emperor penguins.

3. COMPANY KEY FACTS

- Founded in 2005
- Set up by world-record holding polar explorers; husband and wife Patrick and Robyn Woodhead
- Patrick is the company CEO and Co-founder
- The only operator flying private charters from Cape Town to Antarctica
- Season runs mid-November to early February each year
 - This is the Antarctic summer with 24 hours of continuous daylight
- The season operates on scheduled departures
 - Two itineraries available

- Early Emperors – 5/6 days
 - South Pole + Emperors – 7/8 days
- White Desert operates three main camps
 - Whichaway – the flagship luxury camp
 - Echo – inspired by astronauts, used by explorers
 - Wolf's Fang – an adventure base for modern-pioneers
 - Each camp has 6 bedrooms, catering for up to 12 guests
- Exclusive group trips available
- Wolf's Fang Runway (WFR) is the only runway in Antarctica engineered for private aircrafts; it is operated by White Desert
- The company is UK-registered with an operating company in Cape Town, South Africa
- The company's permit to operate in Antarctica is issued by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)
- White Desert supplies logistical support for international science programmes at their research bases in Antarctica

4. ANTARCTICA KEY FACTS

- Antarctica is a vast landmass of 14.2m km² / 5.4m sq miles – larger than China (9.7m km² / 3.7m sq miles) and India (3.3m km² / 1.3m sq miles) combined
- It is the coldest, windiest, driest and highest-altitude continent on Earth
- It is also the only continent with no native human population
- The continent is almost entirely covered by ice averaging 1.9 km (1.2 miles) in thickness, reaching a maximum depth of 4.5km (2.7 miles)
- It is home to 80% of the world's fresh water, yet no rain has fallen in Antarctica for more than two million years; on average, less than 10mm pa of snow falls in Antarctica
- Nobody owns, or can claim sovereignty in Antarctica, which is governed by an international treaty signed by 54 nations. The Antarctic Treaty sets Antarctica aside as a scientific preserve, establishes freedom of scientific research and bans military activity on the continent
- White Desert has been part of IAATO since the company's inception. IAATO creates guidelines and is a self-regulating body for all tourism operations in Antarctica
- There are 70 permanent science bases on the continent, representing 29 countries
- Antarctica is the only continent with no official time zone; White Desert uses UTC throughout its Antarctic operations

5. OPERATIONS / LOGISTICS

- The company operates three main camps + a South Pole overnight base:
 - Whichaway (WA), situated at the Schirmacher Oasis in Queen Maud Land, approximately 100km (62 miles) from the coast, at an altitude of approximately 100m (330ft); typical temperatures in season -10 to -5°C / 14F° to 23F°

- Echo, situated 5km from WFR in Queen Maud Land, at an altitude of 1130m (3700ft), approximately 170km (105 miles) from the coast; typical temperatures in season -10°C to -1°C / 14F° to 27F°
- Wolf's Fang (WF), situated near WFR in Queen Maud Land, at an altitude of 1130m (3700ft), approximately 170km (105 miles) from the coast; typical temperatures in season -10°C to -1°C / 14F° to 27F°
- Dixie's Camp, previously known as FD83 Expedition Camp (FD83), a fuel depot and overnight stop between the main accommodation camp and the South Pole, located at 83° South on the High Polar Plateau at an altitude of 2640m (1.64 miles), approximately 700km (435 miles) from the South Pole; typically -25°C / -13F° or below

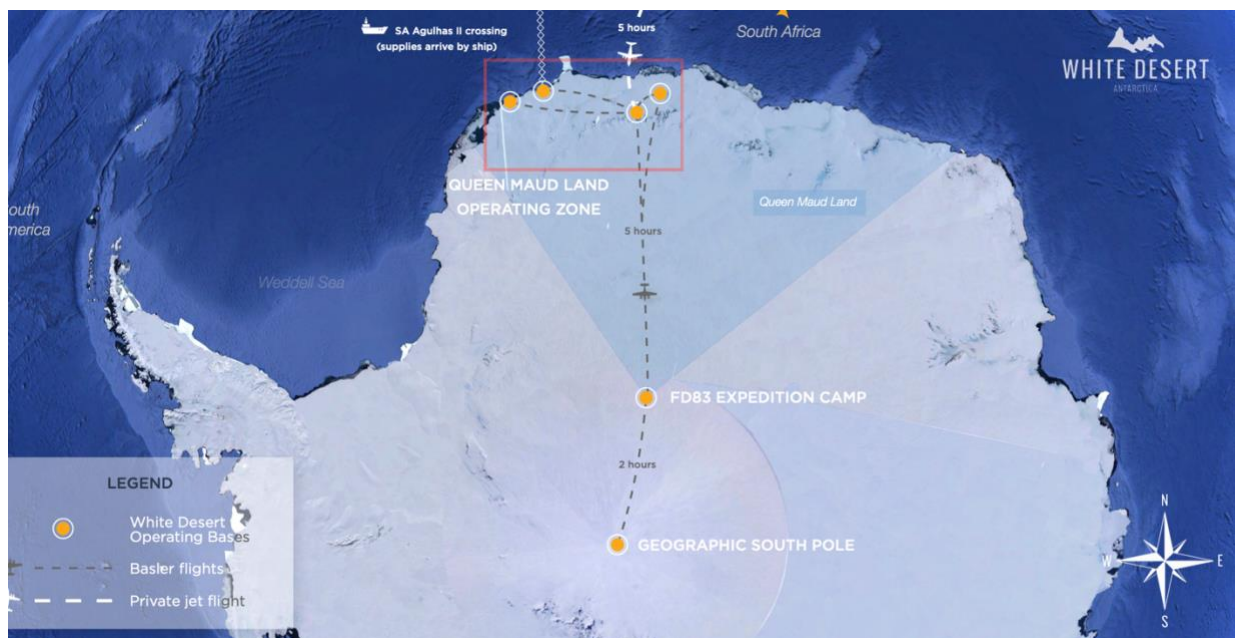


Figure 1: Logistics overview

- Guests fly from Cape Town International (CPT) in South Africa to WFR in 5 hours, passing into the Antarctic Circle and the continuous daylight that only Earth's highest latitudes (most northerly / southerly) experience
- Wolf's Fang Runway is a blue ice runway and is able to land aircraft of all sizes without requiring any modifications; it is 3km (1.9 miles) long and is resurveyed and recreated each season as well as groomed before every plane landing
- Wolf's Fang Runway is named after Wolf's Fang Mountain (Ulvetanna in Norwegian), one of the most iconic mountains in Antarctica, which dominates the runway's skyline
- For its intercontinental flights, White Desert operates a Heavy Aircraft (the A340-300 or similar in 2022/23) with 36 Business Class seats or a Gulfstream G550 with 12 guest seats + 2 bench seats
- White Desert performs up to 40 intercontinental flights per season
- Our fleet includes overland guest and supply transport such as skidoos, specially adapted Arctic Trucks, and BT-67 and Twin Otter aircraft to fly guests within Antarctica
- White Desert's Basler BT-67 is a modernised and uprated conversion of the DC-3, an aircraft with a unique track record and proven dependability around the world for more than six decades; it is specially equipped with skis to land on snow

- All interior flights are taken in one of the company's ski-equipped BT-67 Basler or Twin Otter aircraft:
 - After arriving at WFR, guests staying at Whichaway transfer aboard one of these aircraft (~30 minutes)
 - Flights to the Emperor penguin colonies take 2.5 hours each way
 - Flights to the South Pole take 7 hours each way
- All White Desert cargo (i.e. fuel, food, overland vehicles, building materials and operational equipment) arrives either by plane or via the S.A. Agulhas II polar supply vessel, operated by the South African National Antarctic Programme (SANAP)
- Once on land, cargo is then be transported a further 800km via overland routes, carried out with specially adapted off-road vehicles and snow groomers/tractors designed to operate efficiently in Antarctic conditions

6. CAMPS - WHICHAWAY

- Whichaway is White Desert's flagship luxury camp
- Accommodating up to 12 people in 6 state-of-the-art, eco-friendly Polar Pods with luxury interiors
- The camp is situated on ice-free rock at the Schirmacher Oasis and is surrounded by freshwater lakes
- Each pod is designed to accommodate two guests in first-class comfort in Antarctica's unique climate
- At just over six metres (20ft) in diameter each pod is spacious, and has a writing desk, wash area and toilet; beds may be set up as doubles or two singles
- The pods' exteriors are constructed using cutting-edge materials whilst the interiors have an old-world feel that conjures up images of Antarctica's rich heritage of exploration through sumptuous textures and thoughtful design
- The rest of the camp comprises a shower pod (with two hot/cold running water showers), kitchen and three communal pods that make up the reception, lounge and dining room, as well as a yoga pod and a sauna
- In addition to multiple outdoor activities, Whichaway offers the chance for guests to disconnect and unwind through mindfulness and yoga and is suitable either for exclusive bookings or for individuals and small groups

7. ACCOMMODATION – ECHO BASE (New for 22/23 season)

- Echo is White Desert's brand-new camp, inspired by astronauts and used by explorers
- Accommodating up to 12 people in 6 state-of-the-art, "Sky Pods"
- The camp is situated at the base of the Henriksen Nunataks, which are mountain peaks that project through the glaciers
- Each bedroom pod is heated and designed to accommodate two guests in comfort in Antarctica's unique climate
- At just over five metres (17ft) in diameter each pod is spacious and has a cosy lounge area and washroom and toilet; beds may be set up as doubles or two singles
- Futuristic and luxurious, the six bedrooms are created from composite materials with floor to ceiling windows allowing guests to soak in the moon-like landscape beyond
- The rest of the camp comprises a central shower unit (also with views of the mountains), a kitchen, dining and lounge pod
- Echo offers more variety for the intrepid adventurer. It has numerous activities and opportunities for exploration amongst the nearby mountain peaks. The camp is well suited for exclusive hire and families and groups

8. ACCOMMODATION - WOLF'S FANG (transit camp)

- Wolf's Fang is White Desert's adventure base for the modern-day pioneer
- Accommodating up to 12 people in 6 state-of-the-art Arctic Tents
- Each tent is heated and designed to accommodate two guests in comfort in Antarctica's unique climate
- At just over 6 metres (20ft) long and 3.6 metres (12ft) wide, each tent is spacious, and has an en-suite toilet; beds are set up as two singles
- The tents' exteriors are built using cutting-edge materials whilst the interiors hark back to the polar exploration of old, using leather, canvas and quotes from explorers as inspiration
- The rest of the camp comprises a central shower unit, a kitchen and combined dining /lounge tent
- Wolf's Fang is designed to function as an expedition base camp during season for guests if needed and a launch base for our Expedition Clients looking to create their own Antarctic exploration journey

9. DINING

- All meals are prepared by White Desert's chef, featuring produce from South Africa, bespoke White Desert cocktails and fine wines from the Cape vineyards.
- The style of the menu is sophisticated without being pretentious
- Dishes at Whichaway and Echo are individually served in fine-dining style
- At Wolf's Fang, the style of the menu is simple, hearty and served family-style
- All bread is freshly baked, and the coffee freshly brewed

10. ITINERARIES (pricing for 22/23 season)

- Guests need to arrive in Cape Town for at least two night before departure and stay on for at least two nights after their scheduled return, in case of any weather-related changes to their dates of travel
- All guests receive a full briefing in Cape Town on the day before their scheduled departure
- White Desert offers the following itineraries for the 22/23 season:
 - [Early Emperors](#)
 - 5/6 days, including return flights from Cape Town, all activities plus a trip to see the Emperor penguins
 - Whichaway @ \$62,500pp
 - Echo @ \$65,000pp
 - [South Pole + Emperors](#)
 - 7/8 days, as above but including an overnight trip to the South Pole
 - Whichaway @ \$98,500pp
 - Echo @ \$104,000pp
 - [Antarctic Summit](#)
 - 6/7 day trip including return flights from Cape Town, all activities plus climbing around the mountains of Queen Maud Land culminating in climbing a dramatic mountain peak
 - Wolf's Fang @ \$45,000pp

- [Greatest Day](#)
 - A day incorporating flights to and from Antarctica, 3 hours on the ice including a trek to a nearby peak and a lavish Explorers Picnic
 - @ \$14,500pp
- [Exclusive Use \(Owners Club\)](#)
 - The only way to land a guest's private jet in Antarctica
 - \$POA

2022/23 Season dates	
Full Season	19 November to 06 February
Early Emperors	19 November to 01 December
South Pole & Emperors	01 December to 01 February
Antarctic Summit	01 February to 06 February
Greatest Day	Various
Exclusive Use (Owners Club)	Please get in touch



Figure 2: Guest Itinerary – South Pole + Emperors

11. ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS – SOUTH POLE

- The Geographic South Pole has typical temperatures in season of -25°C to -13F° and below
- All activities are led by UIAGM-qualified high mountain guides and experienced polar explorers – many of whom hold world records for their achievements – in a ratio of one guide for every four guests

- A qualified GP Doctor accompanies each South Pole trip
- Either on the way to or back from the Geographic South Pole, the Basler BT-67 lands on the High Polar Plateau at Dixie's Camp (which is at 83° South) to allow the crew to rest and refuel the aircraft
- Guests have the chance to experience a night under canvas in the midst of this vast and unique wilderness, a 360-degree panorama of the flat, vast, white continent

12. ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS – EMPEROR PENGUINS

- Our Emperor penguin colony is at Atka Bay, a 2.5-hour Basler flight away
- This colony was the site of the first episode of Sir David Attenborough's ground-breaking documentary *Seven Worlds, One Planet*, and is home to more than 28,000 adult penguins and their young chicks. Typical temperatures in season -20°C to -4F°
- Because we access the colony from the interior (rather than having to wait until the Antarctic ice shelf melts), we arrive early when the chicks are tiny and just stepping off their parent's feet
- With no natural predators on land, the penguins are unafraid of humans, allowing visitors the chance to observe the noise and commotion of the colony and to build a unique connection with the natural world offered nowhere else on Earth
- White Desert follows or exceeds IAATO guidelines that prohibit physical contact and stipulate a safe minimum 5m (16.4ft) distance from wildlife; guests are also advised to sit down to view the penguins and to retreat if they approach closer than 5m (16.4ft)

13. ITINERARY - ANTARCTIC SUMMIT

- This 6-7-day adventure takes place within sight of the dramatic Wolf's Fang Peak
- Led by White Desert's expert High Mountain Guides, guests are able to explore the unique mountain ranges of Queen Maud Land, where ancient, kilometre-high rock monoliths rise vertically from the ice. These itineraries include the option to spend the night under canvas in the mountains
- Guests choose from a range of activities including ice-climbing, abseiling, trekking, relaxed picnics and fat biking
- Each year, one itinerary is dedicated to climbing a peak in Antarctica which has previously been surveyed by our guides

14. ITINERARY – GREATEST DAY

- This trip is the only opportunity for guests to experience the interior of Antarctica in a single day
- Guests can either buy single seats or charter an entire private jet
- Timetables vary depending on the weather conditions and time of year; however, a typical trip sees the flight departing Cape Town and landing on the ice at Wolf's Fang Runway five hours later, after which guests spend approximately three - four hours in Antarctica before returning to Cape Town
- Guests are escorted by polar guides from the jet on an easy walk from Wolf's Fang camp to the peak of a nearby nunatak, where guests experience spectacular views over the entire mountain range
- Once back at the runway, they will enjoy a champagne picnic, with the immense mountain range as your backdrop

15. EXCLUSIVE & BESPOKE PRODUCTS

- All itineraries using White Desert aircraft may be bought exclusively for up to 12 guests
- Owners of private jets may choose to use their own aircraft. The landing fees charged include preparing the runway, licensing, pilot briefing and familiarisation etc.
- Bespoke expeditions, for example photographic safaris along the spectacular Antarctic coastline or through the mountains, can also be arranged
- Only those guests that make it as far as the South Pole – 90 degrees South – are eligible to purchase the following unique keepsakes:
 - White Desert's exclusive Bremont Explorer timepiece, which features a map of Antarctica, a unique '90 Degrees' face, a South Pole timer and an individually engraved date of arrival
 - The exclusive Ice Compass necklace: crafted exclusively for White Desert, the white gold compass-design piece is set with 66 ethically sourced diamonds and tanzanite gemstones

16. SUSTAINABILITY

- Overall:
 - White Desert is dedicated to introducing guests to the interior of Antarctica, with the mission of encouraging them to support the conservation of this wonderful wilderness by becoming Antarctic Ambassadors. Protecting – and inspiring the future stewardship of – Antarctica's unique environment has always been at the heart of White Desert's purpose
 - White Desert believes that responsible tourism is a genuine force for good and supports Sir David Attenborough's stance on the transformative power of wilderness travel: "No one will protect what they don't care about, and no one will care about what they have never experienced"
 - Patrick Woodhead has been part of the UK Government delegation at Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings on aviation matters, as well as Council of Management of National Antarctic Programmes (COMNAP)
 - Robyn Woodhead is a member of the Virtuoso Sustainability Council
 - We employ a specialist Environmental Consultant who shapes internal policy, inspects and advises on all our logistics and systems, and is tasked with continuously reducing our environmental footprint
 - White Desert is a supporter of and contributor to the scientific community of Antarctica through its science logistics programme
- Camp operations:
 - Established and operated under IAATO guidelines and operated to the strictest environmental standards, Whichaway, Echo and Wolf's Fang are all temporary eco-camps rather than hotels and have no permanent infrastructure, so they can be overhauled, upgraded or removed without leaving a trace
 - Waste is minimised through the processing, selection and repackaging of all consumables before they are flown to Antarctica
 - All solid waste is transported out of Antarctica at the end of the season
 - White Desert is working to remove single-use plastic from its entire operation
 - Only bio-degradable soaps, shampoo and washing up liquids are used in camp
 - White Desert has pioneered new solar air heaters which reduce camp heating requirements

- Emissions:
 - White Desert was the first aviation operator in Antarctica (including government programmes) to be entirely Carbon Neutral, a status the company has held since 2007
 - White Desert has established a carbon reporting baseline to enable not only carbon offsetting but to identify and set targets for the reduction of carbon. White Desert is one of the first UK organisations operating in Antarctica seeking to achieve science-based targets which are in line with the Paris Agreement and the UK Net Zero by 2050 goal. We seek continual environmental improvements in our operations using the best available technology
 - Recognising Antarctica's position on the front line in terms of the evidence of climate change, White Desert decided right from the very beginning that it was vital to offset 100% of the company's emissions along its supply chain through funding certified replanting and renewable projects in the Amazon, Indonesia and India
 - White Desert partners with air operators who have signed up to the 'Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation' (CORSIA) scheme, which uses market-based mechanisms to achieve tangible reductions in emissions
 - In 2022, we were the first operator to use Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) within Antarctica. A significant test quantity (40,000 litres) of SAF produced from waste oils and fats has been trialled on the continent
 - We are going to rapidly phase in the maximum allowed '50/50' blend of fuel across our whole supply chain, greatly reducing our carbon emissions footprint, as SAF can provide an 80% CO2 emissions reduction compared with conventional jet fuel
 - In addition to carbon reduction, SAF produces lower emissions of particulate matter, soot and oxides of sulphur. This produces fewer contrails, reducing the impact on local air quality. In addition, the reduction of soot is especially significant in Antarctica as its dark colour exacerbates the melting of snow and ice
 - White Desert continues to optimise its aircraft mix to maximise fuel-efficiency when operating flights to Antarctica

- Health & Safety
 - Whichaway, Echo and Wolf's Fang each have their own trauma doctor, equipped with a full medical kit, oxygen and hyperbaric chamber, who travels with guests to the South Pole and the emperor penguin colonies in case of any health issues related to the high altitude and challenging environmental conditions of Antarctica
 - All of White Desert's guides are UIAGM-qualified and have been trained in first aid and rescue procedures, as have other key members of staff
 - Satellite communications are available on all expeditions as well as in camp
 - White Desert has comprehensive Search & Rescue capabilities with back-up aircraft based in Cape Town and in Antarctica, as well as a fleet of surface vehicles. It also has mutual support agreements with other operators in Antarctica
 - Operating its own fleet of aircraft gives White Desert speed and flexibility, should it ever come to evacuating a guest or a member of staff to Cape Town

17. THE INDUSTRY

- The International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) advocates and promotes the practice of safe, environmentally responsible private sector travel. Its members are competitors who co-ordinate safety and environmental protection

- More than 100 companies are members of IAATO, which was founded in 1991
- IAATO’s remit as a self-regulating body includes drawing up protocols and guidelines on safety standards, operations, emergency response, training, communications, environmental protocols, biosecurity measures, Covid-19, guest safety and how to approach and keep a safe distance from wildlife
- Robyn Woodhead served on the IAATO Executive Committee was the Executive Chair for the 2021_22 season
- Visits to Antarctica during the 2019/20 season are shown in the table below, but can be summarised as follows:
 - Visitors by sea 73, 670
 - Visitors by air to interior 731
(shown as “Deep Field Tourism”)

Type of Tourism	Number of Vessels	Number of Departures	Total Number of Passengers
IAATO Traditional Seaborne Tourism Peninsula	36	289	49,806
IAATO Seaborne Tourism Ross Sea / Continental	4	7	514
IAATO Sailing Vessels / Yacht Tourism Peninsula	12	23	165
IAATO Air-Cruise Peninsula	12	78	4,679
IAATO Large Ships / Cruise-Only Peninsula	6	11	18,506
IAATO Deep-Field Tourism	6 Operators	N/A	731

Figure 1, Source: IAATO Overview of Antarctic Tourism: 2019-2020 Season, www.iaato.org

18. AWARDS

Alongside various International Travel Awards, White Desert has been recognised for our ongoing efforts to protect Antarctica and was commended at the 2017 Environmental Impact Awards for 'Team of the Year' and 'Project of the Year Award' for our published Initial Environmental Evaluation.



19. BIOS – PATRICK WOODHEAD

After expeditions to Antarctica in 2002 and 2005, White Desert was founded in 2005 by Patrick and Robyn Woodhead, polar explorers with several world records under their belts. They had identified the opportunity to introduce their guests to the wonders of the forbidding and rarely seen Antarctic interior, but, despite the challenges, they wanted to provide a level of hospitality and comfort like nothing else on the continent.

Patrick Woodhead – Founder & CEO

Patrick grew up in England and as a teenager, heard the stories about the 'Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration' and names such as Shackleton and Scott. Determined to follow in their footsteps, he joined the youngest and fastest team to ever reach the South Pole in 2002 and then went on to lead the first ever East to West traverse of Antarctica, covering 1850km (1149 miles) in 75 days.

Outside the polar world, he has been on many successful expeditions, summiting unclimbed mountains in Tibet and Kyrgyzstan, kayaking down uncharted rivers in the Amazon and being part of the team to set the fastest crossing of the Atlantic Ocean. In 2015, he rejoined some of his old teammates to break the record for the fastest traverse of Greenland.

A passionate advocate for the environment, Patrick is a member of the Royal Geographical Society in London as well as being a speaker for The Prince's Trust charity.

He is the author of three best-selling thrillers that have now been translated into 11 languages and when he is not spending time with his family, he enjoys flying light aircraft and has received his black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

Robyn Woodhead – Founder

Robyn grew up in Cape Town in a family of intrepid travellers. From the beginning, adventure travel was in her DNA. After graduating from the University of Cape Town, she moved to London where she set herself up in the world of travel marketing and PR, going on to found a UK-based luxury travel marketing and advertising agency

where she cut her teeth on a wide variety of clients including the European Union, The Centre for Disease Control and numerous high-end travel destinations.

After an expedition to Antarctica in 2005, Robyn turned her attention to the other end of the planet and skied the last degree to the North Pole in 2006, thereby becoming the first South African to reach both Poles.

Robyn has been involved in responsible Antarctic travel since 2006. Since 2017 Robyn has focussed her efforts by being an active member of IAATO, joining the Executive Committee in 2017 and serving her year as Executive Chair in 2021.

Robyn is on a mission to create true “Antarctic Ambassadors” - former high-profile White Desert clients who then go on to make a difference through their own networks, helping to secure the future and protection of Antarctica. She is also a proud mother of Electra and Oscar, balancing work and family life.

20. CONTACT DETAILS

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