

Royal Cruising Club Pilotage Foundation

Cruising Guide to Cape Horn and Antarctic Waters

Second Edition

By Paul Heiney, Revised by Tom and Vicky Jackson

Published by Imray

Having spent several years playing about amongst the ice and the williwaws of the region covered in the new edition of *Cape Horn and Antarctic Waters*, we share the author's reticence to encourage the unprepared and the unwary into this region. We also hesitate to advertise the splendours of Patagonia and Antarctica to all and sundry. However, our doubts about the appropriateness of this book melted as we read the opening paragraphs:

"I don't think there has ever been a cruising guide where the author can honestly say that danger lurks on every page . . . Be in no doubt that if you choose to venture into the areas described in this book there will be times when you will wish you were anywhere else . . . That's all I can promise you for certain."

It was clear that we were travelling with writers who know the region well and who are able to describe its ins and outs, its bad points as well as its much more famous good ones. It also became clear that we were being granted access to the sort of valuable information which can only be got through hard won experience. This book provides an overview rather than a detailed anchorage guide to the entire region: the areas which it covers – the Atlantic, Chile, the Falklands and Antarctica – are mostly dealt with, anchorage by anchorage, in other Pilotage Foundation publications.

The jewel in the crown is the final chapter of the book, which is devoted to the Antarctic peninsula and begins, most appropriately, with a further warning:

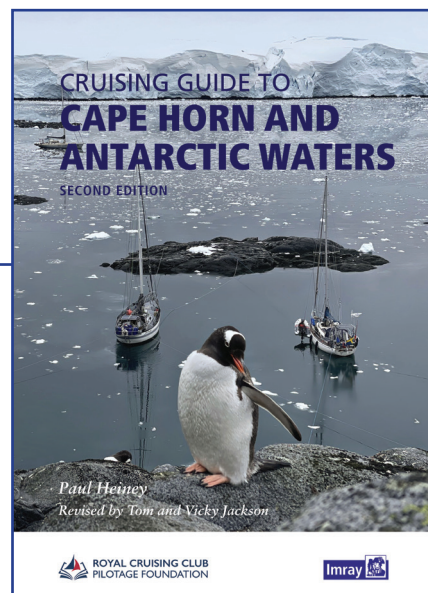
"Most of the commercial yachts regularly operating in these waters have been knocked down and several have been rolled through 360 degrees . . . Once you set off for Antarctica you are hugely escalating the risk to life."

Whereas the other areas covered by this volume are also described in other publications, this is almost your only source of information about where to go and where to anchor on the white continent. The authors have therefore provided a lot more detail, together with chartlets and a comprehensive selection of photographs. Photos of Antarctica tend to show penguins and whales posing in front of awesome, sunlit icebergs, whereas in this book we see yachts anchored off snowy shores or the wind whipping the sea as it scours the ice. It's a healthy reality check.

Even if you've no intention of going to the uttermost south and your only want to pay a visit to Tierra del Fuego, this book is immensely valuable. If you buy it, be sure to read thoroughly the very first chapter, 'Before You Go'. Information provided here is the most important of all. The detail about heaters, impromptu double-glazing and how to store and lay out the ropes that you'll need in order to anchor safely in this region – such details could easily make the difference between a comfortable cruise and an utterly miserable one.

We know people who've come to this region unprepared and who have consequently not enjoyed themselves. If that foolish fellow who moored to the ever-changing face of a glacier had only read Chapter One of this book he surely wouldn't have risked his life in that way, and may not have ended up on the rocks in Antarctica with a hole in one hull. The price of this book would surely have been nothing compared to the cost of his repairs!

Jill Dickin Schinas, April 2026



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