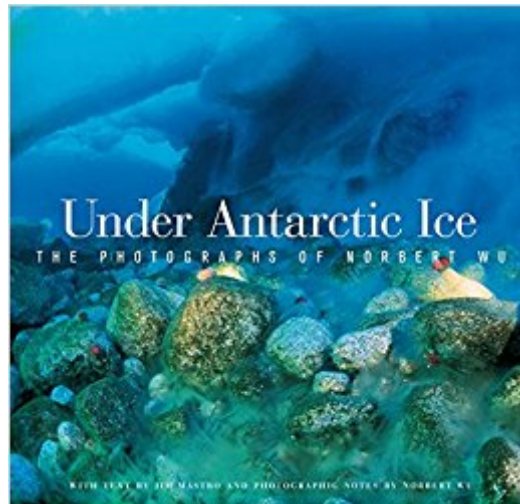




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Under Antarctic Ice: The Photographs Of Norbert Wu



Synopsis

The allure of Antarctica, a place still mysterious, untamed, and unspoiled, has beckoned tourists in increasing numbers as more and more people vie for a glimpse of its terrible beauty and stunning vistas. But there is one aspect of Antarctica they never see, perhaps the most interesting of all—the world beneath the ice. This book, a collection of the finest photographs ever taken underwater in deep Antarctica, illuminates a world brimming with strange and beautiful life forms. For the first time anywhere, *Under Antarctic Ice* brings together the stories, the science, and the natural beauty of one of earth's most vibrant and enchanting realms. Internationally renowned photographer Norbert Wu was given unprecedented access to the icy waters off Antarctica by the U.S. National Science Foundation to obtain these dynamic photographs. In the extreme conditions that prevail in these seas, invertebrates can grow to enormous sizes: sponges are as big as bears, jellyfish tentacles extend thirty feet, and giant sea spiders crawl through beds of soft coral. Wu has also focused his lens on the birds and mammals living at the edge of water and ice. We are humbled before mammoth icebergs, witness a killer whale stalking prey from a narrow crack in the ice, and see what penguins look like swimming underwater. Jim Mastro's introductory text elegantly condenses forty years of scientific research into a clear and concise natural history of this unique place.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The surface of Antarctica is 13-million square kilometers of ice, with an occasional mountaintop

poking through. Ice fields thousands of meters thick, extending out into the ocean as permanent ice shelves, blanket the southernmost continent. Divers have been exploring the ecosystem under the Antarctic ice for about 40 years, and the contrast between the surface world and the world under the ice can be jarring. The water stays at a constant 28.6 degrees Fahrenheit all year, and there is an abundance of life--at times comparable in biomass and diversity to what can be found in a tropical coral reef. Wu, a photographer specializing in marine environments, presents his photographs of this alien world in a fascinating look at an ecosystem virtually no one has ever seen. Wu's images showcase penguins and seals (both above and below the ice), whales, and his fellow divers, but it is the ubiquitous presence of the ice in all its myriad forms that makes the photos magical. Mastro's text artfully summarizes Antarctic ecology for the lay reader. Nancy Bent

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"A remarkable underwater journey that takes you within a whisker's breadth of diving Weddell seals, and leaves you bobbing in awe in the wake of soaring emperor penguins." - Terrie M. Williams, author of *The Hunter's Breath*; "Under Antarctic Ice is a remarkable collaboration between one of the world's very best underwater photographers and a superb science writer. The text and photo notes represent the most complete description for lay readers of the natural history of this fascinating habitat." - Paul K. Dayton, Scripps Institution of Oceanography; "This is an amazing book." - Howard Hall, natural-history film producer and author of *Secrets of the Ocean Realm*; "With its exceptional photographs and lucid text, this book is about as close as you can come to visiting Antarctica without actually going there." - Gerald L. Kooyman, author of *Diverse Divers*

A wild environment. A bit on the scientific side. but it is a very nice overview of the life under the ice in antarctica. Lovely and wild photographs. I have been enjoying it and reccomend it to anyone curious on the subject or just wanting to see something new.

This book is chock full of incredible photographs of the wonders of Antarctica. Any Diver, Swimmer, Marine Biologist or lover of the oceans will enjoy this book, its incredible photographs and well written text will add to your understanding of the underwater world of Antarctica. When people think of the southern continent, they picture the stark white ice fields and distant mountains. This book will let you see and appreciate the amazing life that goes on under the ice along the coasts. A rich and diverse ecosystem that very few have ever pondered, much less seen. You will be in awe of the amazing array of animals seen in this book. Penguins, Jelly Fish, Whales, and all manner of

critters...

A splendid book to browse or immerse in. The photos brings to life the icy vastness, surreal light the irony of the varied forms which call it home.

Nice book on fascinating topic, nicely documented, but why are the photos so small for the size of the pages??? I also bought it at a very low price.

This is undoubtedly the most spectacular book ever written about the natural history of Antarctica. Wu's photographs are spectacular, and the text is a brilliant mix of scientifically accurate descriptions laced with thoughtful prose. If you're just looking for a picture book about Antarctica, this book will satisfy your every need. If you want to *learn* something about Antarctica, you'll treasure this book!

Fascinating, beautiful, informative. For a saltwater aquarium enthusiast, photographer, or a lover of beauty - this is heaven!

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