

A Polar Explorer's GUIDE TO

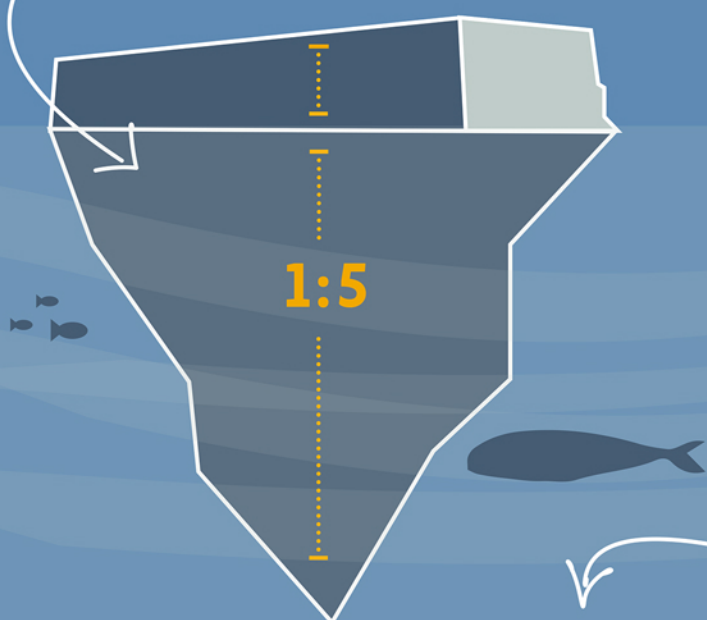
ICEBERGS

One of Mother Nature's most stunning artworks, icebergs form when chunks of ice break off or 'calve' from freshwater glaciers, ice shelves or larger icebergs in the Arctic or Antarctica.

THERE ARE TWO DISTINCT SHAPES

1 TABULAR Steep sides and a flat top with horizontal banding. Antarctic icebergs are usually tabular, with flat tops and steep sides.

2 NON-TABULAR Irregular shape with sub-classifications based on size. Greenland and other North Atlantic icebergs are usually peaked and irregular in shape.



TABULAR

The vertical distance between the waterline and the bottom of the iceberg is called the draft. The ratio of height to draft is **1:5** in a tabular iceberg and otherwise differs in icebergs of different shapes.

TAKE A LOOK!

DRYDOCK 1:1



DOMED 1:4



PINNACLE 1:2



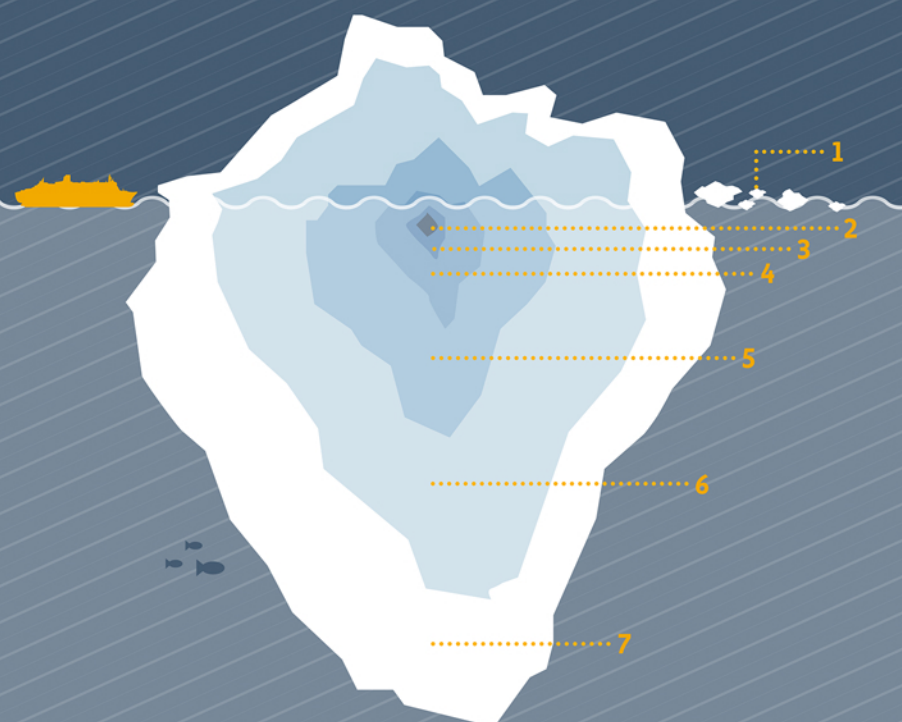
WEDGE 1:5



BLOCKY 1:5



ICEBERGS BY SIZE



1 • BRASH ICE

Accumulations of floating ice made up of fragments not more than 2 m (6.5 ft) across

2 • GROWLERS

< 1 m (3 ft) in height
< 5 meters (16 ft) in length

3 • BERGY BITS

1-4 m (3-13 ft) in height
5-14 m (15-46 feet) in length

4 • SMALL ICEBERGS

5-15 m (14-50 ft) in height
14-60 m (47-200 ft) in length

5 • MEDIUM ICEBERGS

15-45 m (51-150 ft) in height
61-122 m (201-400 ft) in length

6 • LARGE ICEBERGS

46-75 m (151-240 ft) in height
123-213 m (401-670 ft) in length

7 • VERY LARGE ICEBERGS

>75 m (240 ft) in height
>213 m (670 ft) in length

FUN FACTS

100%

Although you'll find them in saltwater, icebergs consist of **100%** freshwater.



Between **10,000 to 15,000** icebergs are calved each year and the glacial ice they're made of may be more than **15,000 YEARS OLD**.



93%

Ninety-three percent of the world's mass of icebergs is found surrounding the Antarctic, where ice shelves may calve icebergs over **80 KILOMETRES** long.

168 METRES

Birds taking flight from an iceberg are a good sign that it's about to roll.

The tallest known iceberg in the North Atlantic was **168 METRES** high.

WEST GREENLAND

#1

Western Greenland's icebergs are among the fastest moving on Earth; this is where 90% of Newfoundland's (Eastern Canada) icebergs come from and it takes them over a year to cross the Arctic Ocean.

The **INTERNATIONAL ICE PATROL**, formed after the Titanic sank in 1912, uses airplanes and radar to track icebergs in the North Atlantic and warns ships of icebergs in shipping channels.

As icebergs travel on ocean currents, sunshine and warmer air creates melt ponds that trickle through the ice and widen cracks. Salt water laps at its edges, causing melting and breakage. Warmer waters melt the iceberg from the bottom up.

Air bubbles trapped in the ice are revealed as it melts, giving icebergs that distinctive aquamarine to brilliant blue hue.

The largest iceberg ever recorded in the Northern Hemisphere was near Baffin Island in 1882. Thirteen kilometres long and six kilometres wide, it protruded about 20 metres above water.

LARGEST IN 1882

9
BILLION
TONNES

Its mass was in excess of nine billion tonnes and it contained enough water for everyone in the world to drink one litre a day for over four years.

SEE ICEBERGS UP CLOSE ON AN EXPEDITION TO
the Arctic or Antarctica!

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*Sources: Canadian Geographic | Australian Antarctic Division | National Snow and Ice Data Center | Government of Canada