



"ANTARCTICA DAY" was established in **2010** to commemorate the anniversary of the signing of the Antarctic Treaty on **December 1, 1959**. While the treaty itself has been marked since its inception, the specific "Antarctica Day" branding and organized internet-based celebrations began as a legacy of the 2009 Antarctic Treaty Summit. Since its inauguration, it has been mentioned annually on the internet by various scientific, educational, and governmental organizations to celebrate international cooperation, peace, and science.

Below is a breakdown of internet mentions and milestones for Antarctica Day by year:

- **2009:** The [Antarctic Treaty Summit](#) was held at the Smithsonian Institution to mark the 50th anniversary of the treaty. This event served as the catalyst for creating Antarctica Day.
- **2010:** Antarctica Day was **inaugurated** by the [Foundation for the Good Governance of International Spaces \(Our Spaces\)](#). The first celebration involved participants from **14 nations**.
- **2011:** The [British Antarctic Survey \(BAS\)](#) launched a virtual "peace balloon" to track global celebrations and other organizations began promoting the day online, with participation growing to **28 nations**.
- **2012:** Mentions increased as a partnership of organizations, including the [Association for Polar Early Career Scientists \(APECS\)](#), PolarTREC, and Polar Educators International (PEI), officially recognized the day. Participation included **26 nations** across all seven continents. The **Sultan Mizan Antarctic Research Foundation (YPASM)** was established that became the "key initiator" for [Antarctica Day outreach in Malaysia](#).

- **2013:** NASA's [ADS \(Astrophysics Data System\)](#) documented Antarctica Day as an "International Celebration," noting its role as a globally accessible platform for sharing the values of the continent.
- **2014:** The [German Environment Agency \(UBA\)](#) published press information celebrating the day and highlighting the importance of the Antarctic ecosystem. Malaysia participated in a major [international Antarctica Day celebration](#) alongside global partners like the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS).
- **2015:** Online mentions continued to expand, emphasizing the **55-year legacy** of the original 12 signatories of the Antarctic Treaty.
- **2016:** The day was widely featured on educational blogs such as [Celebrate Picture Books](#), which highlighted activities in schools across more than **25 participating countries**. Scientific reports highlighted the launch of Antarctica Day contests and the "Sustainable Antarctic Contests," initiated by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), USM, and YPASM to engage the public.
- **2017:** Organizations like [Antarctica New Zealand](#) celebrated the day's inauguration anniversary on social media. The Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) and other partners translated the educational book Celebrating Antarctica into 22 languages to promote the day.
- **2018:** APECS highlighted a decade of shaping polar researchers, citing Antarctica Day as an exemplary educational activity.
- **2018–2020:** Mentions focused on the **60th anniversary** of the signing of the Treaty (celebrated in 2019), with major posts from [SCAR \(Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research\)](#) and other global polar research bodies.
- **2021:** The [U.S. National Science Foundation \(NSF\)](#) and [National Day Calendar](#) provided comprehensive coverage of Antarctica Day, marking it as a milestone for international diplomacy.
- **2022:** The [Australian Antarctic Program](#) and [INCDSB](#) celebrated 63 years of the Treaty. India celebrated a decade of its [Bharati Station](#) with a special postal cancellation and augmented reality features released on Antarctica Day.
- **2023:** [National Academies](#), [Royal Museums Greenwich](#) and other scientific bodies shared extensive educational content on social media and official websites.

- **2024:** The [International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators \(IAATO\)](#) and member organizations promoted safe, environmentally responsible travel as part of the celebration. Wide social media coverage included hashtags like **#AntarcticaDay** and **#WorldAntarcticaDay** on platforms like [Instagram](#) and [TikTok](#).
- **2025:** The [Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition \(ASOC\)](#) and the [International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators \(IAATO\)](#) published latest reflections on the Treaty's success and future challenges. South Africa (through [SANAP](#)) highlighted its role as the only African original signatory to the treaty during international celebrations. **Sambutan Hari Antartika 2025 (Antarctica Day 2025):** Held on **December 8, 2025**, at [Universiti Tenaga Nasional \(UNITEN\)](#), this event was graced by **Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin** in collaboration with YPASM, focusing on the theme that "climate change has no borders"

Details on specific educational activities or participating countries with Antarctica Day

Since its creation in **2010**, Antarctica Day has evolved from a small initiative into a global educational movement involving dozens of countries and thousands of students annually. The hallmark of these celebrations is the **Antarctica Day Flag Initiative**, where students design "flags for Antarctica" that are transported to the continent by researchers.

Global Participation Growth

The reach of Antarctica Day has expanded significantly since its inception:

- **2010 (Inauguration):** Launched with **14 participating nations**.
- **2011:** Participation doubled to **28 countries**.
- **2013:** Over **600 flags** from children in **13 countries** were flown in Antarctica.
- **Recent Years (2020-2021):** Despite COVID-19 challenges, the [UK Polar Network](#) sent **122 flags** from **106 schools** in **13 countries** (including the UK, China, Germany, and the USA) in 2020. In 2021, this grew to **176 flags** from **138 schools** in **9 countries**, including Greece, Poland, and Thailand.

Core Educational Projects

Schools use a variety of cross-curricular resources to celebrate the day:

- **Antarctica Day Flag Challenge:** Students design original flags representing the continent's values of peace and science. These are carried south by "flag bearers" (researchers),

photographed at stations like Princess Elisabeth Antarctica, and returned with official certificates.

- **Shackleton's Journey:** Drama and writing activities based on historical expeditions, such as writing [diary entries from Ernest Shackleton's perspective](#) or creating "job adverts" for brave explorers.
- **Scientific Simulation:**
 - **Ice Experiments:** Exploring how temperature affects ice formation and the impacts of climate change.
 - **Animal Adaptations:** Games where children mimic penguin or seal behaviors to learn about survival strategies.
- **Antarctic Ambassadors:** The [International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators \(IAATO\)](#) encourages students to become "ambassadors" by participating in citizen science or hosting local beach clean-ups.

Digital & Multimedia Engagement

- **Live Connections:** Organizations like [PolarTREC](#) host live sessions connecting classrooms directly with scientists working at Antarctic research stations.
- **Polar Film Festivals:** Convened by groups like The Explorers Club to showcase the continent's beauty and scientific importance.

Antarctic Research Stations

Scientists and support staff acting as "flag bearers." These stations serve as the final destination where the flags are photographed and displayed to celebrate the peaceful cooperation established by the Antarctic Treaty. The following stations have been frequently cited as participants or display hubs for the **Antarctica Day Flag Initiative:**

- **[Princess Elisabeth Antarctica](#)**
(Belgium): A primary hub for the initiative, often hosting live Skype sessions with participating schools.
- **[Rothera Research Station](#)**
(UK): The largest British hub, where flags have been displayed in the new Discovery Building and paraded by staff.

- **Amundsen–Scott South Pole Station**

(USA): Flags often reach this symbolic location at South Pole, transported by ski-equipped aircraft.

- **[Scott Base](#)**

(New Zealand): Frequently receives flags traveling via New Zealand logistical routes.

- **Halley VI Research Station**

(UK): Notable for its mobile design on the Brunt Ice Shelf, it has hosted flags as part of recent [UK Polar Network](#) projects.

- **[King Edward Point](#)**

(UK): A research station on South Georgia used as a display point for flags traveling on the RRS *Sir David Attenborough*.

- **Fossil Bluff**

(UK): A field station on Alexander Island that has hosted both Antarctica Day flags and [Polar Pride events](#).

- **Signy Research Station**

(UK): Located in the South Orkney Islands, this station has also served as a backdrop for student flag photos.

Logistical Transport Vessels

Flags aren't just displayed at stations; they are often photographed on the research vessels that transport them:

- **RRS *Sir David Attenborough* (UK)**: Used to carry flags to various British Antarctic Survey (BAS) sites.
- ***Polarstern* (Germany)**: Involved in transporting and displaying flags during research expeditions.

List of significant publications and official announcements referencing “Antarctica Day”

- **Antarctica Day: An International Celebration (2013)**: A report presented at the AGU Fall Meeting detailing the expansion of the holiday across 28 nations since its inception.
- **The Celebration of Antarctica Day (2016)**: An article by Stellenbosch University discussing South Africa's role as an original signatory and the holiday's local significance.

- **Antarctica Day Announcement (2016):** An official release from the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic](#) recognizing the day following their consultative status achievement.
- **Happy Antarctica Day! (2017):** A public tribute from [Antarctica New Zealand](#) acknowledging the 1959 treaty signature.
- **Polar Science publication (2019)** about [*The influence of Malaysia's involvement in Antarctica on the awareness of Antarctica and its values amongst Malaysian citizens in state capital cities*](#)
- **Antarctica Day (2021):** A dedicated feature on the [National Day Calendar](#) providing a history of the treaty and celebration ideas.
- **Happy Antarctica Day! (2021):** A detailed science article from the [U.S. National Science Foundation \(NSF\)](#) highlighting decades of research milestones.
- **Celebrating Antarctica Day (2022):** A news report by [MercoPress](#) marking the 63rd anniversary of the Treaty.
- **Antarctica Day 1 December 2022 Conference Report (2023):** A formal report from the [University of Tasmania](#) summarizing a conference on the future of Antarctic workforces.
- **Celebrating Antarctica Day and the Promise of Antarctic Research (2023):** An article by the [National Academies](#) emphasizing the continent's role as a "time machine" for climate data.