

In December of 1772, Captain James Cook left England to explore the Pacific Ocean. In a wooden ship one hundred feet long, thirty feet wide, with a maximum speed of seven knots and a crew of ninety four, Cook would discover the Hawaiian Islands which he called the Sandwich Isles, visit Tahiti, chart and annex New Zealand and Australia and sail below the Antarctic Circle.



In December of 1972, the *Burton Island* left California to sail the same waters explored by Cook two hundred years earlier. The differences were evident; a 6500 ton Polar Icebreaker, a specialized crew of two hundred six and a collection of scientists from universities across the United States. Equipped with communications gear and computerized navigational facilities that would have staggered the mind of Cook, the *Burton Island* sailed for parts of the world that, before Cook, remained a mystery for the entire civilized world. Although the waters are now well travelled, explored and charted, the senses of adventure and discovery were still there.