

Virtual Visits and Interactive Narratives

Not everyone can make it to Antarctica. And not everyone should.

The Antarctic has always been dangerous - just ask Robert Scott. But today it is prime destination for wealthy cruise goers, with 100,000 people visiting the continent in the 2022-2023 season.

Not everyone can afford to make the trip to the Seventh Continent. The least expensive possible cruise berth on an Antarctica trip is at least \$4,000 - and can be up to \$30,000 per person. That's without the expense of traveling to Chile or Argentina, the most popular gateways.

Not everyone has the health to do so. There were four publicly-known fatalities in that 2022-2023 season, with uncounted injuries. That's literal - injury data isn't publicly collected and distributed, so it's impossible to know how safe an Antarctic voyage is.

And the environment cannot afford for everyone to do so. The Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties have begun discussing Antarctic tourism, as it has grown exponentially in recent years (even with the pause from 2020-2021 due to COVID-19).

Since I was lucky enough to travel to Antarctica for research, I have created a free digital narrative of the experience for those who cannot make the trip. Called, "Heading South," it is a visual novel written in the best "Choose Your Own Adventure" style, based on real stories of visiting, exploring, and damaging Antarctica - and sometimes yourself as well.

This is the official debut of "Heading South," found at <https://liznyman.itch.io/heading-south>, and I am seeking feedback on whether it answers questions about the call of the Antarctic. All the possible sights and experiences are ones that can be had by visitors to Antarctica - from drowning in the Drake Passage to being threatened by a seal to seeing adorable baby penguins. We can't all be Roald Amundsen, but we can all visit Antarctica these days through a visual lens.

I appreciate any and all feedback on my narrative! Please let me know what you think - you can leave comments on the itch.io page linked above.

Get "Heading South" [here](https://liznyman.itch.io/heading-south) for free, or use the QR code!



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