

## **Icebergs on the Move**

The large tabular iceberg A23a calved from the Filchner-Ronne Ice Shelf in 1986. After its calving, the research base Druzhnaya I, which was placed on this iceberg, had to be removed and was renamed to Druzhnaya III. For many years the iceberg remained stuck on the sea bed before it started moving in 2020. With an area of almost 4,000 square kilometres it was by 2024 one of the largest icebergs ever monitored.

Late in 2020, A23a started its journey towards north, roughly following the coastline of the Antarctic Peninsula. In November 2023 the iceberg moved past the northern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula, heading toward north. During its tour away from Antarctica, A23a will reach warmer waters and will subsequently melt.

While the dissolution of the ice shelves does not directly contribute to the seawater level (the melted water replaces only the volume of the submerged part of the ice), it plays an important indirect role as the shelves act as a stabilising barrier for the glaciers flowing towards the sea. A loss of this barrier can lead to an enhanced ice flow.



4. Path of iceberg A23a during 2022 and 2023. Background image: Sentinel-3, 2023-11-15.

5. Iceberg A23a passing the Antarctic Peninsula on its way towards the South Atlantic ocean. Data: Sentinel-3, 2023-11-15.

