



An Airbus A340 plane flown by Portuguese company Hi Fly landed on an icy runway in Antarctica for the first time in history.

The plane landed after a five-hour flight from Cape Town, South Africa, and the entire journey there and back covered 4,630 kilometers. An adventure camp **commissioned** the plane, and the plane brought supplies to its resort. The team spent less than three hours on the ground of Antarctica.

According to the captain, landing on a blue ice runway required a totally different way to approach the mission. There was no ground support equipment such as **air start** or a ground power unit, and there were other concerns. For example, there were no navigation or visual aids to support the landing.

Hi Fly specializes in **wet leases**, and it's responsible for the insurance, maintenance, and other logistics. The company said that the aircraft would fly a small number of tourists alongside scientists and essential cargo to Antarctica.

Difficult words: **commission** (to formally choose someone to do a special piece of work), **air start** (a power source that starts large engines), **wet lease** (an arrangement that covers the hire of an aircraft including the flight crew and sometimes fuel).

**Discussion Questions****Topic Talk**

1. Define the following words: *commission, air start and wet lease*
2. Which company flew an airbus A340 for the first time in Africa?
What does the company specialize in?
3. How long did the journey from Cape Town to Antarctica take?
4. What did the plane take with them to Antarctica?
5. Why was the landing of Airbus A340 not easy according to the captain?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Have you ever thought about visiting the coldest, windiest and driest continent, Antarctica?
If given a chance, would you go to Antarctica?
2. After this successful landing of an Airbus A340 to Antarctica, do you think there'll be more journeys to the place in the future by aeroplanes?
3. Are there places in your country that are difficult to access? And why is it difficult?