

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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LARGE ARCTIC ICEBERGS

According to the U. S. Coast Guard, Great Karajak, Umiamko, Torsukatak and Jacobshavn glaciers, on the coast of Greenland, produce the largest icebergs found in the Arctic. The "Marion" expedition, while cruising near the glacier fronts two years ago, measured several bergs, the largest of which towered 250 to 275 feet above the surface of the water. The highest Arctic berg of authentic record was sighted in 1891 in this same locality and measured 425 feet in height.

By the time the bergs drift down to the transatlantic steamer routes they are naturally not so large as in the Arctic. The average runs about 60 to 100 feet, with the tallest one officially recorded as 250 feet. The International Ice Patrol has had occasional reports of bergs three to five miles long, but these dimensions have not been verified. The largest specimen sighted by the Patrol was nearly 1,700 feet long but only 65 feet high. It was estimated to weigh about 36,000,000 tons.

No bergs of Arctic origin compare in size with the enormous "ice islands" encountered in the southern hemisphere.

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