Health & Science

Want to visit the wreck of the Titanic? Soon that may be possible.



More than 100 years after the Titanic left Southampton on her ill-fated maiden voyage, excursions are being organized to bring people down to the ocean floor to view the wreckage of the luxury liner. (SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES)

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On the night of April 14, 1912, the RMS Titanic — the largest active passenger liner of its time — crashed into an iceberg, sinking just hours later to the bottom of the North Atlantic. More than 1,500 people died in the disaster.

More than 100 years later, those with a sense of adventure (and enough money) may be able to explore this storied shipwreck. The London-based luxury travel firm Blue Marble Private, along with OceanGate, a submersibles company based in Everett, Wash., have announced eight-day excursions that will begin in 2018.

Up to four adventurers at a time will cozy up inside the Cyclops 2, a submersible made of titanium and carbon fiber, and dive about 2.5 miles to get an up-close view of the Titanic. The estimated cost is \$105,129 per person, according to CNN.

[China is building a full-size replica of the Titanic, as a tourist attraction] "We will spend about three hours exploring the wreck, focusing mostly on the bow section, the most impressive part of the wreck. Gliding over the ship's deck, our powerful exterior lights will illuminate the cavern where [the] Titanic's famous grand staircase was once located," according to a description from

OceanGate. "Your dive may explore the remains of the iconic bridge where the famous order 'Hard a' starboard and full speed astern' was uttered, or explore Titanic's massive debris field, home to numerous artifacts strewn across the ocean floor, nearly undisturbed for over a century." [Watch the Titanic Sink in Real Time (Video)]

The first excursion, which will leave from Newfoundland, is slated for May 2018, with more dives expected the following year, according to Blue Marble. Scientific surveys will also be conducted during the excursion, as part of the Titanic Survey Expedition, aimed at fully documenting and modeling the shipwreck.

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<u>Why and How the Titanic Sank (Infographic)</u> <u>Image Gallery: Stunning Shots of the Titanic Shipwreck</u> <u>Titanic Quiz: Fact or Fiction</u>