

World's largest iceberg breaks free

The world's biggest iceberg, which split from the Antarctic coastline in 1986 to become stuck to the ocean floor for more than 30 years, is about to spill beyond Antarctic waters

A23a
ICEBERG

SIZE COMPARISON

A23a iceberg
3,900 sq km

Hawaii's
Big Island
10,432 sq km

Cyprus
9,251 sq km

Greater
London
1,569 sq km

ATLANTIC
OCEAN

South Georgia:
If berg grounds at
island, it might disrupt
delicate ecosystem

Nov 2023: A23a expected
to launch into **Antarctic
Circumpolar Current**, which
will eject it towards South
Atlantic on path known as
"iceberg alley"

Weddell
Sea

2022: Berg loses grip
and starts moving
across Weddell Sea

1986: A23a calves off
Filchner Ice Shelf,
but quickly becomes
grounded on sea floor

Filchner
Ice Shelf

Ronne
Ice Shelf

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

500km
300 miles

ANTARCTICA

