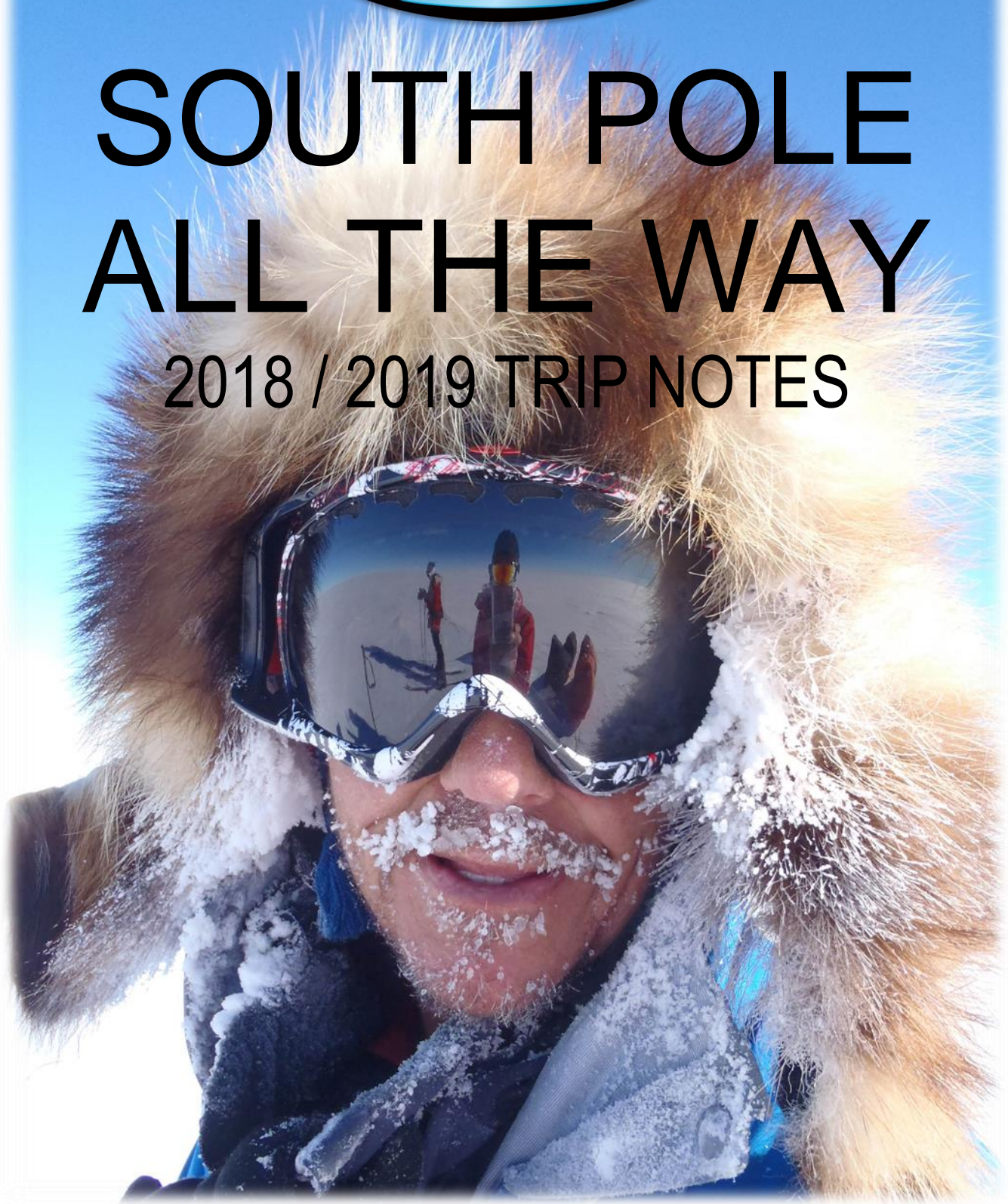




# SOUTH POLE ALL THE WAY

2018 / 2019 TRIP NOTES





## **South Pole – All The Way**

### **Expedition Notes**

November 10, 2018 – January 10, 2019

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**Antarctica has held the imagination of the entire world for over two centuries, yet the allure of this remote continent has not diminished. With huge advances in modern-day technology, travel to any part of the world seems to be considered a 'fait accompli'. Yet Antarctica still holds a sense of being impenetrable, a place where man has not tamed nature.**

Antarctica is a place of adventure. A frontier where we are far removed from our normal 'safety net' and where we need to rely on our own resources and decision making to survive. It is in these environments where we are truly in touch with nature, where we can embark on a journey of discovery of remote and untouched places.

In the Southern Hemisphere summer, when the sun is in the sky 24 hours each day; Adventure Consultants is operating an expedition on skis across the vast expanse of Antarctica from the edge of the continent to the South Pole. This overland journey takes some 62 days and will be both challenging and exhilarating; a journey that will give us a lifetime of memories.

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#### **Who Will Lead the Expedition?**

The Adventure Consultants team includes experienced Arctic/Antarctic guides, whose knowledge and expertise is imperative in making these expeditions a success. The guides for each trek are confirmed 6 months prior to departure time.

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#### **How the Expedition Operates**

##### **Getting Started**

The team will meet in Punta Arenas on the southern tip of Chile. After food and equipment preparations are finalised, we fly an ice runway on the Antarctic Continent which is a flight of around four hours. This landing site is known as Union Glacier and is the base for our air transport provided by Antarctic Logistics Expeditions (ALE), a company with 15 years' experience in providing air support on the Antarctic Continent.

## The Journey Commences!

After final preparations and fine-tuning at Union Glacier, we fly by ski-plane to the Hercules Inlet to begin our trek south. Skis will be worn for the entirety of the expedition (with a few possible exceptions) which will be the telemark type with 'skins' on the base for traction. When towing sleds, skins are preferable to the waxing method used for cross-country skiing.

This is where the adventure really begins. The plane departs and we are left to the silence of the Antarctic, and the huge task of walking the 1170km/730 miles over the next two months to the South Pole!

We quickly settle into a routine of 1hr marches with short breaks in-between. Now and again, a rocky summit adds some contrast to the landscape as we reach our halfway point at the Thiel Mountains, approximately 25 days into the journey. Navigation will be accomplished using GPS navigation equipment to ensure an accurate route to the pole.

The terrain between the Thiel Mountains and the South Pole consists of mostly flat terrain, yet we are eventually climbing to over 9000 feet; the height of the pole itself. For the most part, the snow will be smooth and flat interspersed with extensive wind affected sastrugi snowfields. We pass several mountain ranges along the way and navigate through only one major crevasse field for which we have a proven GPS plan. The terrain eventually climbs gradually onto the polar plateau for the final leg through to the South Pole itself. On arrival at the pole and the ensuing photo-fest, an aircraft will be dispatched to pick us up and return us to Union Glacier for the return flight to Chile.

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### Itinerary: November 10, 2018 – January 10, 2019

Day 1	Meet in Punta Arenas, Chile
Days 2-5	Preparation of food and equipment, review the route and expedition plan, weighing & loading of gear and briefings
Day 6	Fly to Union Glacier, Antarctica
Days 7-10	Acclimatisation and training days
Day 11	Fly to Hercules Inlet to begin ski tour
Days 12-37	Daily ski touring towards the Thiel Mountains
Days 38-58	Thiel Mountains to the South Pole
Day 59-60	Pick-up from the South Pole, return to Union Glacier
Day 61	Fly to Punta Arenas, Chile
Day 62	Expedition ends, depart for home

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### The Level of Experience Required

The South Pole All the Way expedition is for the most dedicated of polar travellers. You need significant skiing and cold weather camping experience, along with a very high degree of fitness. Typically candidates will have participated in cold weather ski expeditions of some length such as North Pole or South Pole Last Degree expeditions, or the Greenland Crossing.

A high degree of discipline and diligence must be maintained throughout the expedition, skiing for 8-10 hours per day for 45-55 days in a row, with team members helping to set up camp

and prepare meals. Rigorous daily training must be undertaken for 3-6 months prior to the expedition start.

We require all participants to submit a resume of their ski expedition experience so that we can make appropriate suggestions for further training and ensure you get the most out of your expedition.

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### **What Will I Carry?**

Each member will have a high tech sled built specifically for Arctic/Antarctic use. These will be loaded with personal gear as well as a share of the expedition equipment. We utilise three pre-placed food caches enroute to minimise the weight of our sleds. Each sled is estimated to weigh around 50-60kg/110-130lbs at the beginning of the phase, reducing over the duration of the expedition as food and fuel is consumed. The complete load is carried on the sled rather than carry a backpack.

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### **The Daily Routine**

The expedition team members share tents and the chores of cooking. The coldest part of the day will be in the breakdown of the camp as we pack sleds and begin the daily trek. Each day we will move for 8-10 hours with regular rests for food and fluid intake. Once we reach our camping destination for the day, we set up the tents and build snow walls to protect the tents from wind.

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### **Temperatures**

The effective temperature is defined by the strength of the wind as we are battling against the katabatic winds descending from the polar plateau. Temperatures will be in the range of  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $^{\circ}\text{F}$  to  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $32^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). The temperatures will rise during the season but it is near the end of the expedition when we gain higher altitudes near the pole, that we will have the colder temperatures. Ultimately a lot will depend on the season and the general weather patterns. Weather analysis will be provided by experts in polar meteorology, which will assist us in being forewarned of major weather systems.

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### **Clothing**

For most of the trek members need only be clad in fleece clothing with windproof shells. Warm expedition mittens and hats will be necessary in addition to a facemask and fur ruff around the jacket hood to keep wind and blowing snow at bay. Lightweight down clothing will help members endure the cold starts and provide additional warmth (if needed) in the sleeping bag.

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## Equipment

We will supply all of the team equipment and you will only need your personal equipment. We supply sleds, tents, stoves, pots, food and fuel, ropes and sled harnesses, GPS and communication equipment.

You will need to supply all your own clothing, sleeping gear and ski equipment. If you wish we can assist with the purchase of equipment and clothing suitable to the expedition.

A full equipment list will be sent to you on confirmation of booking.

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## Communications

We intend to carry the latest in satellite communication equipment facilitating good contact with the outside world. This also improves safety in that we have instant communications with ALE in the unlikely event an evacuation is required. It is possible for you to utilise our equipment or you may bring your own, but we request you confirm with us to establish power requirements can be met.

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## Rescue Considerations

It is possible for evacuations to take place along the route, if necessary. However there are areas with sufficient sastrugi to make aircraft landings impossible and anyone needing evacuation would need to be transported to a sastrugi free area for a pick-up, which may take days of travel. For this reason expedition members need to fully understand that evacuation is not an 'on demand' service and weather conditions can preclude flights for days or even weeks at a time. The best way to protect oneself against problems of this nature is to be fully prepared, both physically and mentally for an adventure of this magnitude. Additionally, an aircraft rescue can be very expensive and we require expedition members to be insured against this possibility.

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## Expedition Fee

The cost of the expedition is: **US\$72,500** per person ex **Punta Arenas, Chile**. A minimum of four members with one guide are required for this trip to operate.

The expedition fee **includes** the following:

- Adventure Consultants guides
- All expedition organisation requirements
- Transport within Antarctica where applicable
- Food and tented accommodation ex Punta Arenas (twin share)
- Expedition food and equipment
- Tents, stoves, sleds & harness
- Dedicated dispatch webpage updated throughout the trip that you can post onto your own website for friends & family to follow

- Transport of 30kg/66lbs of personal equipment to Union Glacier

The expedition fee **does not** include the following:

- Air travel to and from Punta Arenas, Chile
  - Personal clothing and equipment
  - Personal travel, medical, rescue insurance
  - Hotel, meals and personal expenses in Punta Arenas
  - Personal insurance – full travel, medical and rescue insurance is required as well as personal trip cancellation insurance. Medical evacuation insurance cover of US \$300,000 is required.
  - Excess baggage transportation charges of US\$75.00 per kg for any baggage exceeding the personal equipment weight limit.
  - Cost of satellite telephone calls whilst on expedition
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## Payments

All payments should be made by bank transfer to the following bank and account:

**Bank of New Zealand  
Offshore Branch  
1 Willis Street  
Wellington  
New Zealand**

for the account of **Adventure Consultants Limited**

Account #                   **1000-594771-0000**  
Account Type:           **US Dollars**  
Swift Address:           **BKNZNZ22**

Note: All bank transfer charges are for the **remitters account**.

We can also accept your deposit and balance payment by credit card (Visa, Mastercard, Amex), plus a 3% credit card fee.

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## Deposit

**A non-refundable deposit of US\$15,000** is payable to secure a place on the expedition.

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## Balance

The balance is payable **120** days prior to commencement of the trip.

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## Cancellation and Refund Policy

An expedition member may cancel his/her participation on the following basis:

- Cancellations outside of 120 days will result in the loss of the trip deposit.
  - For cancellations made within 119-90 days of the trip commencement date we reserve the right to retain 50% of the full fee.
  - For cancellations within 89 days of the departure date a cancellation fee of 100% of the full fee applies.
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## Trip Cancellation Insurance

Team members should take out private insurance if they wish to be covered against cancellation due to medical or personal reasons. This is called Trip Cancellation insurance and can be obtained through your normal travel agent.

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## Visas

Generally entry Visas are not required for travellers staying less than three months in Chile, but please check with your travel agent. The expedition ski traverse permits for travel in Antarctica are a separate matter dealt with by Adventure Consultants.

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## Team Membership

The team will have a **minimum size of 4 members and 1 guide** and a **maximum size of 8 members and 2 guides**.

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## Medical Examination

Expedition members will be provided with pre-trip medical advice and a medical questionnaire and asked to visit their family physician and receive a full medical examination. This information will be sighted only by the expedition leader and our medical adviser and treated with full confidentiality.

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## Documentation and Photographs

Expedition members will need to provide 4 passport photographs for the various permits and a copy of their passport bio-data page.

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## The Advantages of Expeditioning With Us

Adventure Consultants is renowned for the quality of its service and strategy applied to high altitude expedition climbing and polar travel. Our reputation is attributed to meticulous planning and experienced logistics coordination. We have a philosophy of investing in every expedition to offer our climbers the best possible chance of success.

We employ strong and specialised Expedition leaders and support staff, whom are some of the most pre-eminent in the industry. We pride ourselves on operating with small teams, the best back-up and support available. This includes nutritious and ample quantities of food, comfortable base camp facilities, reliable communications systems and the necessary medical back up.

Many of our expedition members come to us because they have seen us in action on a previous trip and decide to opt for our level of service and proven experience. Others return because they know we do our very best to make expeditions safe and successful.

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## How to Join This Expedition

If you would like to join the expedition please complete an [Expedition Application Form](#) and forward along with a list of your skiing and outdoor experience, and the deposit for the trip.

If you require more information please contact us at;

**Adventure Consultants Ltd.**  
PO Box 739, 20 Brownston St  
Wanaka, 9343  
New Zealand

Ph + 64 3 443 8711      Fax + 64 3 443 8733

Email: [info@adventure.co.nz](mailto:info@adventure.co.nz)      Website: [www.adventureconsultants.com](http://www.adventureconsultants.com)



*Adventure Consultants is affiliated to the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association (NZMGA), New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) and a corporate member of the American Alpine Club (AAC). Adventure Consultants perform to IFMGA standards and are world leaders in high altitude guiding.*

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