



North Pole 2018 - Blog No 1:

A new Dream, A new challenge, A new goal!

After having successfully climbed Mount Everest and completing the 7 Summits (the highest mountain on each continent) the most commonly asked question to Jaco is, 'what's next?' It did not take him long to decide to look out for a new challenge, this time something different from climbing a mountain. Jaco has always been fascinated by snow and ice because of its non-permanent presence. Ice, snow, frozen waterfalls – they can be there during winter but in summer it's all gone. With the poles that's a bit of a different story – ice on the Poles is always there, and constantly moving.

The biggest challenge Jaco sees in reaching the North Pole and hopefully later in 2018 the South Pole is the mental aspect of it. When climbing a mountain you are able to see the summit, so you know what you are aiming for. Next to that you plan your journey in a way that you get used to the altitude; you build camps and you can take a rest day if the weather is not in your favour. With the Poles this is all different. The journey to the North Pole is roughly 120km and to the South Pole close to 1000km. As a result of that you can only see your goal on the last day, in case of the South Pole roughly on day #50!

This mental challenge, the physical aspect (you have to carry everything for the whole journey with you) and the outdoor circumstances are the key ingredients that are driving Jaco towards his new goal.

Jaco will start his mental and physical journey on the first of January 2017 which gives him 455 days of preparation.