

ARCTIC OCEAN

THE LAST DEGREE TO THE NORTH POLE

(04 APRIL TO 16 APRIL 2012)

Equipment for the journey

General equipment description

If the equipment is basically the one commonly used in the mountains, some additional requirements for a cold trip like this are necessarily to be included as specific jackets and warm hat, adapted gloves and mittens or a good face mask with a wind protection. This will be explained here under.

With respect to skis and footwear, we will use newly customized boots with sole-integrated binding (developed for my own expedition). This new system is much technical, warmer, more durable and more comfortable than other brands of the market.

The boots, the skis and the ski poles, the synthetic sleeping bags (-25/30°C) and the closed-foam mattresses (two regular) will be provided.

We have comfortable and big geodesic tents especially made for such an expedition (two people per tent), specific sledges (which can be rapped together and be used as a catamaran) and pulling belt, stoves (MSR Whisper light) and cooking gears.

All boiling water and meals will be prepared by the guide in the comfortable mess pyramidal tent which will welcome the group for all dinner and breakfast. This warm tent will be the place for spending a nice evening all together after the harsh and solitary day walking on the ice.

General equipment provided for the group by Alain Hubert

- Carabiners (2).
- Snow pegs - 3 per tent.
- Stoves and kitchen equipment.
- Shovel, one per two tent
- Fuel (Coleman-white gas).
- Fuel cans.
- Thermometer and meteorological measuring devices.
- Map: (we are going straight north all the time)
- GPS: Alain Hubert (bring your own if you wish)
- Compass: Alain Hubert (bring your own if you wish)
- Repair kit: provided but bring a few personal items, sewing kit, etc.
- First Aid: provided but not sophisticated. **(So please, bring medication, etc. for personal use.)**
- Gun/Ammunition: Alain Hubert
- Signal pistol: Alain Hubert
- Iridium satellite telephone: Alain Hubert. **(The satellite phone number is of Alain Hubert : +881 621 468 531)**
- The cost is as follow: 3 USD / minute.
- Spare equipment: Alain Hubert

Personal options

Camera, Diary, Writing utensils, pencil, *book (don't imagine you will get much time left for reading...)*, etc.

Solar panel and electrical power for recharging commercial batteries: provided by Alain Hubert

General equipment provided for each participant by Alain Hubert

- 1 Google mask with additional wind screen protection for the nose
- 1 pair of wool mittens
- 1 pair of polar fleece mittens
- 1 pair of wind proof outer mittens (only membrane without any leather or whatever additional layer)
- 1 pair of very big warm mittens (in case of stressed cold temperature or problem)
- Sleeping bag(*Haglofs Zensor Nordic Winter*)
- 2 mattresses (*close cell foam – 14 mm each*)
- 1 sledge small size (*custom made – see picture*)
- 1 pair of skis with a large synthetic skin integrated in the sole of the skis on the compression zone
- 1 pair of polarboots (*custom made (@Extreme Planet) with integrated binding – see picture*)
- 1 thermos: 1.2 liters (for hot drinks, **unbreakable**).
- 1 stiff clothes brush: to brush off snow and frost in the tent.

Personal equipment:

- Bivouac shoes to be used in and around the camp. Put woolen or closed-foam innersoles inside.
- 1 windproof mittens: should be big and have room for two pairs of woolen / fleece mittens inside - Can be provided by Alain Hubert.
- 1 pair of wool mittens or polar fleece mittens (Note that protecting hands are very important and that ski-gloves are not allowed) - Can be provided by Alain Hubert.
- 2 pair of under-gloves in polar fleece.
- 1 wind jacket (Anorak) Large with good length and hood (*Gore-tex, Microfiber or cotton can be used*).
- 1 wind pants: same as for the jacket. Pants with suspenders and a high waist are recommended.
- 1 down jacket: thick and large, with hood.

- 1 thin puff vest (type *primaloft* synthetic fabric) or polar-windproof vest: not required, but nice for cold days when skiing.
- 1 polar or fleece jacket (200 gr): used in the camp or to wear on extra cold days when skiing.
- 2 long thermal underwear: free choice of your favorite type of underwear, but two sets are required.
- 2 or 3 pair of thin inner socks: to be used inside the boots and directly against the skin. It will dry quickly in the tent.
- Vapor barrier sock: normal plastic (strong shopping bags or equivalent). Take along 10-15 plastic bags to pull on top of the thin inner sock to prevent moisture from reaching the boot.
- 2 pair of thick socks: to be wear on top of the vapor barrier liner.
- 1 thick hat: wind proof insulated hat.
- 1 thin hat: thinner hat for warmer days.
- 2 balaclava: can also be used as a scarf (1 spare when the first is frozen).
- 1 long "Buff"
- 1 Google mask (in addition of the one provided)
- 2 sunglass: choose any you like (one is spare).
- 1 sun cream Sun Block.
- 1 lipstick Sun Block.
- 1 spoon: strong type (**no plastic**).
- 1 eating bowl: **roomy**, preferably insulated, **plastic only** (metal is prohibited)
- 1 big cup: insulated cup.
- Hygiene: tooth brush, toiletries, etc.
- Small bags: bring some light kit bags for personal equipment and clothing to keep your sled tidy.
- 1 knife: own choice of *Leatherman* tool, pocket knife or normal knife.
- Toilet paper: one roll per person.
- 1 night bottle (optional): half liter plastic bottle (*Nalgene*).
- Individual warm hand bag (to put into the mittens in case of very cold temperature) : **20 x per person**.
- Personal medication if required
- Misc.

Food: about 900 gr per person per day.

We will bring food for 8 days. If any of you feel like having extra snacks, bring them if you wish. If anyone has allergies or special needs, please let me know well in advance.

• Breakfast

- (I assume that you all like muesli). Muesli w/ milk powder or pemmican and mash potatoes (optional but advised)
- Raw sugar
- Milk powder and cacao
- Tea or coffee.

• Lunch

- Tea for hot water (thermos). If you would prefer having energy powder, please bring it with you: it won't be provided.
- Home made compressed biscuits rations or choice of bars and biscuits
- Belgian Chocolate : 100 Gr per day.
- Cheese (150 Gr per day).

• Dinner

- Freeze dried dinner (special home made dried food without any additive).
- Mash potatoes with mixed ground cereals.
- Some classical dried food packs will also be available
- Instant soup (2/person/day).
- Everyone should bring a cake (small cake, put in plastic box, tape up) or whatever you want for celebrating at the North Pole.

Weights expected to be carried per person:

The total weight will be about 38 kg. (The weight decreases by about 1 kg/day.)