



MEDIA ALERT

27 December 2013

British Explorers Reach the South Pole on Record-Breaking Antarctic Expedition

British polar explorers, Ben Saunders and Tarka L'Herpiniere have reached the South Pole – the half-way mark on their 1800 mile return journey from the coast of Antarctica to the South Pole and back making the first completion of Captain Scott's ill-fated Terra Nova route.

Ben Saunders said, "After 63 days on the ice we're here – at our half-way mark – the South Pole. It's been a huge day, we've covered a record distance and we're thrilled to make it here between Christmas and New Year as planned. We're making a quick turn-around and are now starting our 900 mile journey back across the Antarctic Plateau and towards the coast."

"We're feeling optimistic about the return journey. Our preparation has paid off. The many training sessions across all four corners of the UK and beyond in my Land Rover have put us in the best possible position physically. We're also really happy with the way our equipment is performing. Other than a couple of minor repairs on the Beardmore Glacier our technical gear remains in good condition and Intel's latest technology that we're using to send back the daily blogs and several video clips has been performing brilliantly." Ben said

To reach the South Pole Ben and Tarka have:

- Covered 903 miles on foot in one of the most inhospitable places on earth
- Consumed almost 378,000 calories (just under 6,000 per day)
- Walked on average 14 miles (22.5km) per day for the last 63 days with only two rest days
- Climbed more than 10,000 feet in altitude
- Written 60 daily blogs and posted more than 60 unique images of Antarctica at www.scottexpedition.com
- Released five videos of footage from the ice (<http://www.youtube.com/user/ScottExpedition/featured>)

Ben and Tarka are expected to return to the coast mid-February 2014 – marking the first completion of Scott's Terra Nova route and the end of the longest unsupported polar journey in history.

For a snapshot into the first two months in Antarctica visit <http://scottexpedition.com/blog/a-christmas-message-from-antarctica-video>

To follow Ben's daily blog visit www.scottexpedition.com/blog or track Ben and Tarka's progress across a host of social media channels:

YouTube - www.youtube.com/scottexpedition

Twitter - www.twitter.com/scottexpedition

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/TheScottExpedition?ref=ts&fref=ts>

Instagram - www.instagram.com/scottexpedition

Falcon Scott (grandson of Captain Robert Falcon Scott) and Robert Swan OBE (first to walk to both the North and South Pole and Founder of 2014) are expedition patrons.

Intel and Land Rover are co-presenting partners of the Scott Expedition.

For further information or images please visit www.scottexpedition.com or contact Francesca Beeching, E: Francesca@bensaunders.com, M: +44 (0) 7538 951320

Notes to editors

1. ****Iconic British explorer Captain Robert Falcon Scott led the first British team to reach the South Pole on 17 January 1912 on the Terra Nova expedition. He died along with the last of his South Pole team, Dr Edward Wilson and Lieutenant Henry ("Birdie") Bowers, on 29 March 1912 in Antarctica on their return journey.**
2. Ben Saunders is a pioneering polar explorer. One of only three people in history to have skied solo to the North Pole (a challenge Reinhold Messner called "ten times as dangerous as Everest"). At the age of 26, Ben was the youngest explorer to complete this by more than ten years. He achieved this feat in 2004, in conditions NASA called "the worst since records began", and in doing so set the record for the longest solo Arctic journey by a Briton. No one has repeated this journey since.
3. The Scott Expedition is supported by co-presenting partners Intel and Land Rover; expedition partners Kcom and Drum-Cussac; supporting partners Bremont and CF Partners; and supplier partners Mountain Equipment, Field Notes and Hilleberg.