

Antarctica is a vast desert of ice. It contains 5.5 million square miles (14 244 935 square km) solid ice, twice the size of Australia. The size of the continent expands and contracts with seasons, but the topography remains stunning with wind, snow and cold crafted outlines. Antarctica has no native population, but it attracts travelers and explorers. A number of permanent research stations supported by several cooperating nations are placed on the continent and researchers from different countries compete to get the opportunity to conduct research there. The lowest temperature recorded by a thermometer on Earth was -128.6 F (-89.22 C) at Vostok Research Station on July 21, 1983. An unofficial record was measured in east Antarctica 2010, -135.3 F (-92.94 C). Annual precipitation is less than 2 inches.

Expeditions to South Pole started December 1911 when Norwegian Roald Amundsen reached the southernmost point of Earth. He did that with 52 dogs and a handful of people. Those days were busy in setting records who got where first. Amundsen decided to go south since Robert Peary made it first to North Pole April 1909. Amundsen set off to his expedition secretly to beat his rival Robert Falcon Scott who reached South Pole January 1912. Next successful expedition took place October 1956 by US Navy, which meant setting up the US Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station.

Since then, different kind of records have been made, 2011 fastest and oldest happened the same year. The oldest person skiing to South Pole unsupported is a French Foreign Legionnaire Simon Murray, 63. For me, to beat that record would mean waiting for extra 14 years to get started. Fastest person, Norwegian adventurer Christian Eide, skied to South Pole in 24 days. For me that would mean I should have started practicing 20 years ago. Christmas Eve 2016, Swedish woman Johanna Davidsson finished skiing solo to South Pole in less than 39 days smashing the previous records for female solo skiing. First Finnish woman Sanna Kallio skied supported 1/2019. In addition to these records, there are the first Welsh solo skier, the first walker to South Pole, the first wheelchair on skis and so on.