



**MONCLER IN ANTARTICA 2015:  
MICHELE PONTRANDOLFO'S LONE EXPEDITION TO THE SOUTH POLE**

Following K2 - 60 Years Later, the expedition which took Moncler back to the summit of K2 in 2014 60 years on, the link between Moncler and extreme adventure is being heightened by its partnership with Michele Pontrandolfo in the world's first lone exploration of the South Pole. He will be setting off in November 2015 and is set to arrive in January 2016.

Moncler has created all Pontrandolfo's technical equipment for this exceptional project: garments of the utmost technical performance purposely designed to tackle the harshest weather conditions and inspired by Moncler Grenoble Fall-Winter 2015-16 Collection.

Michele Pontrandolfo, one of the greatest Italian and international explorers, has notched up no less than 14 polar expeditions: amongst others, in 2012 he attempted to reach the geomagnetic North Pole alone, and crossed Greenland from north to south. Yet there is more: Michele Pontrandolfo also practices a number of sporting disciplines, including athletics, mountain biking, downhill skiing and parachuting, putting himself to the test in the latter with over 400 freefalls. Some kind of super-human, you might say. Yet perhaps the most surprising feature of this man, who from mid-November will be setting off on an incredible new adventure, tackling a boundless continent of ice battered by winds at 40-50 degrees below zero on his own, is that Michele Pontrandolfo manages to remain distinctly 'normal'. He takes on weather and psychological conditions that defy the imagination, harnessing his incredible inner strength. It is a strength which, he repeats like a mantra, all of us possess. 'No, I don't accept the word 'challenge'. I am living proof that every one of us can do it', says Michele. 'At the end of the day,' he adds, 'I like to think that the things I have managed to do can help others to believe in themselves more and reach the targets they are aiming to achieve. Daily commitment is necessary; a sort of routine which allows you to cover major distances and reach your objective, one step after another'.

This time though, Michele Pontrandolfo's target in Antarctica 2015 will be tougher than ever. He aims to reach the geographical South Pole in three months, crossing thousands of kilometres of emptiness: around 4000 km of only ice and snow, with an altitude difference ranging from 0 to 3800 metres. A frozen, flat, colossal yet uniform landscape which could destroy anyone without the necessary athletic fitness. The sense of isolation is enough to drive people crazy, and the nearest human, in the best-casescenario, will be at least 1500 km away. All it takes is the slightest problem, even a small glitch, for failure to ensue, and the utmost danger with it. The risk variants are, in fact, infinite. 'It is that very fear that brings you home', Michele states with complete and disarming simplicity. 'It's the factor that keeps you rational, that helps you keep your guard up. The natural impact is devastating and absolute. You are completely at the mercy of the elements. Ice is my real element though. I feel completely alive and free when the icy gusts of wind blast my face, even when the icy dust is blotting out the horizon. The wind is what helps me cover enormous distances along the route, when it blows in the right direction, of course, thanks to the towing sails like a snow kite attached to the black and white kevlar sledge. It weighs 11 kg, is two metres forty long, and contains all the equipment'.



‘With Moncler’, Michele Pontrandolfo conclude, ‘there was an immediate understanding and a partnership that has been perfect from every standpoint of this expedition, whether technological, organisational or support oriented. Moncler has used its knowledge and incredible research into materials to supply me with all my custom made high performance technical clothing, meeting every need I have, no matter how slight.’

The garments ice grey colored which the polar explorer will be wearing for Antarctica 2015 are inspired by Moncler Grenoble Fall-Winter 2015-16 Collection, which features functional jackets with a high technical coefficient and innovative design. The main elements include: high impermeability and waterproof performance, accessories tested to withstand very low temperatures, heat-taped seams and thermal insulation with a very high fill coefficient designed purposely to guarantee the highest comfort under extreme conditions.

The garments of the collection will be available in Moncler boutiques worldwide from Fall 2015.

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*Moncler was founded at Monestier-de-Clermont, Grenoble, France, in 1952 and is currently headquartered in Italy. Over the years the brand has combined style with constant technological research assisted by experts in activities linked to the world of the mountain. The Moncler outerwear collections marry the extreme demands of nature with those of city life. In 2003 Remo Ruffini took over the company, of which he is currently Chairman and CEO. Moncler manufactures and directly distributes the Moncler clothing and accessories collections Moncler Gamme Rouge, Moncler Gamme Bleu, Moncler Grenoble and Moncler Enfant through its boutiques and in exclusive international department stores and multi-brand outlets.*

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