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## Briton attempts South Pole record

**A British man is hoping to become the oldest person to make it to the South Pole alone and unsupported.**

John Wilton-Davies, 44, will fly out from Heathrow on Tuesday ahead of the start of his expedition on 23 November.



Mr Wilton-Davies has been training in Norway and Greenland

The business consultant from Clyst Honiton, Devon, will face temperatures averaging minus 25C on the walk, which will take up to nine weeks to complete.

The 700 mile-trek (1,127 km) to raise money for charity Cancerbackup has only been completed by seven others.

Mr Wilton-Davies, who has already spent £70,000 on training and equipment, said it is his ambition to undertake an extreme challenge.

"It is a very daunting prospect, I haven't had time to get nervous, but I expect it will hit me on the plane," he said.

"I always wanted to do something physically and mentally extreme and I felt that at 44 if I do not do it now I never will.

"The time is right and it is a one-off chance to attempt the biggest thing I could think of."

### Pulling sledge

Fierce conditions mean fewer than 200 people have reached the South Pole and in most cases they have needed support from the likes of powered vehicles or dogs.

Training has taken Mr Wilton-Davies to Norway and Greenland.

He will initially fly to Chile, before leaving for Antarctica to begin the expedition.

The plan is to travel between 10 and 15 miles a day, while



The business consultant will be seen off

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pulling 140kg of supplies - by his family  
including satellite communication equipment - on a sledge.

A plane is being prepared to take him back from the South Pole.

Wife Michele, and children Zak, three, and Sam, one, will be at Heathrow on Tuesday to see Mr Wilton-Davies off.

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