

BUSINESS IS YOUR ADVENTURE, ADVENTURE IS MY BUSINESS

A story told by Wilco van Rooijen, the first Dutchman who reached the 3-poles: the North- and South pole and the highest pole Mount Everest without extra oxygen.

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Since a long time Wilco van Rooijen has been active as a climber in the Alps he undertook impressive, independent climbs of 1000 metres-high (north) faces. The Grandes Jorasses, Matterhorn north face and Eiger north face are a few examples.

His first expedition had little to do with climbing. Together with two others he travelled across the African continent, by means of 4x4 vehicle, starting in the Netherlands, crossing the Street of Gibraltar to Morocco, crossing the Sahara and ending in Cape Town. En route he and his permanent climbing-partner topped Mount Kenya through the Diamond Couloir. This trip took place between December 1992 and May 1993.

In 1995 Wilco participated in the Dutch K2 Seven-Up Expedition that ended premature with a near fatal accident. A huge rock hit him in the face and shattered his upper arm. He got his revenge in 1998 when he reached the top of the 8,027 metres high Shisha Pangma, without the use of additional oxygen. In 1999 he and his climbing partner undertook the Dutch Peru Expedition during which they climbed several Andes' peaks up to a height of 7,000 metres.

The 1997 Nomad North Pole Expedition passed off more successful, Wilco was among a team of four reaching the geographic North Pole. They were the first Dutchmen to do so.

In 2000/2001 Wilco reached unsupported the South Pole and back again to Patriot Hills. The total distance to cover was 2200 km. To get there they use skis and kites. The way to the pole they had to walk 48 days, 1100 km all the way. The way back they used there kites and finished there trip after 70 days. All the equipment and food they need, they took it with them in the sledges they were pulling. They didn't want to use air support.

In 2004 Wilco reaches the top of the Mount Everest (8850) without oxygen and without paraglider.

In 2006 Wilco climb a double header: the Broad Peak (8048m) and the K2 (8611m).
In 2008 Wilco is going back to the K2 in Pakistan for the third time! The second highest mountain but the most difficult and dangerous mountain of the world.

