

Gilles DENIS

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Born on February 11th 1990
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Professional Adventurer, Public Speaker and Entrepreneur – w/ background in Climate Physics

- Goal-driven, proactive, organized, enthusiastic
- Team player with strong leadership experience
- Curious, open-minded, multi-talented
- Multilingual

Working experience

- Sponsored Athlete with Solvay, Marmot, Kokatat, Garmin, GoPro, Club Alpin Belge** August 2020 – Today
Establishing long-term sponsorships in preparation for the NANOK EXPEDITION
- Founder & Athlete of the NANOK EXPEDITION asbl** Jan 2020 – Dec 2023
Accomplished a world-first untypical triathlon across Greenland wilderness, from April to September 2022, with a strong environmental focus and scientific collaborations doing field science for climate research, as well as co-producing and co-directing a 90' documentary with Belgian national TV (RTBF)
- Inspirational speaker for corporate & private venues** May 2020 – Today
Gave private talks at sponsors' or corporate events, i.e. with : Solvay, Altran, Blue Water Shipping, Air Greenland, etc. TEDx speaker (with KUL in Brussels, April 2023). Gave the opening speech at the European Business & Nature Summit in Milan (Oct 2023) on behalf of the European Commission (EU Biodiversity Platform).
- Explora Project (Annecy, France)** May 2021 – Today
Creating and guiding original sustainable adventure travel tours
- BOLD Expeditions bvba (Belgium)** July 2019 – March 2020
Outdoor instructor for leadership expeditions in Norway
- Producer and director of outdoor film FRÈRES DES GLACES** Sept – Dec 2018
Produced and directed outdoor film together with brother Antoine Denis after a six weeks expedition in the south of Greenland (May-June 2018)
Film was presented at the "Festival du Film de Voyage et d'Aventure de Bruxelles"
- Tasermiut South Greenland Expeditions (Narsarsuaq, Greenland)** 2016 – 2022
Expedition travel guide & naturalist (leading adventurous trekking, mountaineering and sea kayaking expeditions)
- PhD researcher in sea ice modelling: to understand effects on the ocean – ice – atmosphere interactions (ELIC, UCL, Belgium)** January – April 2017
Conducted research in sea ice modelling at the Earth and Life Institute

Public speaker at film festivals and outdoor venues, schools and universities

Since 2016

Education

Digital Marketing Specialist at *Skillsfactory* (BeCentral, Belgium) Oct 2020 – Feb 2021
Hands-on traineeship & incubator for data-driven digital marketing & entrepreneurship

Wilderness First Aid April 2019
Course and certificate with “*Outdoor medicine*” (Bruges, Belgium)

ISKGA Coastal Guide at *Sea Kayaking Cornwall* (UK) Feb – March 2018
6 weeks intensive training at renowned sea kayaking center, designed to train internationally recognized guides for commercial expeditions

Thesis at the *Royal Observatory of Belgium* with “Highest Honors” Sept 2013 – June 2014
Study of the Antarctic ionosphere climatology through the analysis of GPS data
(With Dr. Nicolas Bergeot, GNSS research group)

Master’s degree at UCL in ***Earth and Climate Physics*** with “Honors” Sept 2009 – June 2014
Bachelor’s degree at UCL in ***Physics*** with “Honors”

Term at the *Yukon College* (Whitehorse, Canada) Sept – Dec 2008
Subjects: ***Northern Outdoor Pursuits; Natural History of the Circumpolar North***

Languages

- **French :** native proficiency
- **English :** full professional proficiency
- **Spanish :** full professional proficiency
- **Dutch :** basic professional proficiency

Other skills & Interests

- **Public Speaker & Influencer :** @gillesdenisexpeditions for Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn
- **Photographer & Content Creator**
- **Computer literacy, Web development & Image processing**
- **Sports :** rock climbing, mountaineering, polar expeditions and sea kayaking
- **Scouting :** 14 years including 2 years as troop leader
- **Blogging & writing articles** (would love to write a book someday...)
- **Carpentry & Manual work**

Travels & Expeditions

- ➔ Strong interest in discovering new places and experiencing new cultures
- ➔ Solid experience in **self-organized expeditions**, for the surpassing of self and the building of team dynamics :
 - **Achieved an ambitious 6 months’ long expedition in Greenland, from April to September 2022 with partner Nathan Goffart (more here www.nanokexpedition.be)**
 - Successful ascent of The Nose on El Capitan, Yosemite and other “big walls” in Nov 2019 (USA)
 - Successful winter circumnavigation of the Cornish peninsula by sea kayaks in Jan 2019 (UK)

- Expedition leader crossing the southern tip of the Greenland ice sheet and sea kayaking the south-western coast in full autonomy, 6 weeks in May – June 2018 (featured in film FRÈRES DES GLACES)
- Big wall expedition in Yunnan, China, 4 weeks in October 2017 (video available)
- Co-guided the *Reto Pelayo Vida Polar* expedition on the Greenland ice sheet, 2 weeks in September 2017 with 5 women freshly recovered from cancer (55 min documentary available)
- Organized and accomplished a 3 months' long winter expedition in full autonomy with home-made pulkas along the Arctic Circle in the Yukon Territory, Canada, in 2015
- First Arctic adventure at 18 years old : 35 days on a trapline in the dead of the Arctic winter nearby the Tombstone Territorial Park in Feb – March 2009, YT, Canada.