

When was the coldest you've been and where were you?

Name	Location	Context	Notes
Neil	Hungary	Walking – so cold my eyelashes had icicles	
Helen	French Alps	Walking through a snowdrift to get to work, wearing cotton trousers, brrrrr	
David	Pennine Hills, UK	Mountain Leadership course in January and camping overnight in Edale. So cold the tent pegs wouldn't go into the ground. I put all my clothes on to try to get to sleep	
Nicole	Budapest	New Year, just after swimming outside in a thermal spa. Sub zero and felt cold in a different way to the UK, but it was beautiful	
Estelle	Snettisham, Norfolk, UK	It was -15°C – I was de-icing my car and the tips of my fingers froze	
Anne	Blackpool	Playing hockey during the winter. I'd regularly be unable to hold the hockey stick because my hand hurt so much.	
Simon	Luosto, Finland	December 2002 and -37°C (see image)	
Bryan	Findus Foods	Working in the blast chillers one summer. I had to clear them of ice. They were set around -40°C to -50°C but we had steam guns to blast the freezer elements. The liquid in our nose, mouth and eyes crackled as it froze.	

Robert	Portland, Maine	December 1976 – coldest winter on record in the USA. They stopped us going out when the temperature dropped to -40°C (which is also -40°F) There was also an eight foot snow drift in front of the door	
Stephen	Derby, UK	Frozen to the core. Winter and below freezing but with wind chill factor. Like a mini Ice-age for a boy from London.	
Bob	New York	New Year's Day 1999 – maximum temperature was 0°F (that's -18°C), helped by a 20mph northerly wind – I thought I'd never be warm again!	
Tina & John	Paris	New Year's Eve 1999 -17°C	
Dave	Northern Alberta, Canada	-45°C – Lungs start to dry out after 20 minutes – brutal	
Wendy	Australia	We were there in August 2004 and staying in a 'fibro' building with no insulation, so the minute the sun went down we were freezing. We arrived in the evening with sleet coming down. Going to the toilet during the night was a nightmare.	
Jo	Iceland	2003 -21°C – Froze my trousers so part of them snapped	
David	Southampton	Inside the Tesco distribution centre in their blast freezer	
Bob	Tullinge, Sweden	Outside Stockholm in Feb 2001 -27°C – while moving house. It was a record-breaking cold snap	

Mark	Milan	Watching Inter Milan lose in the San Siro stadium. Took a half hour walk and a few drinks to feel my toes again.	
Geo	Svalbard	-30°C with a 30mph wind	
Chris	Inca Trail, Peru	Doing the trail, and my coffee froze before I'd finished my breakfast	
Claire	Mt. Buller, Australia	-4°C, which is freezing for Australia – couldn't feel my face, which was quite unnerving	
Sue	Sauze d'Oulx, Italy	Skiing at -26°C – top of ski lifts and hands froze to shape of button I was holding to operate the ski lift	
Armin	Bremen, Germany	While growing up, winds from Scandinavia – remember walking on the frozen Zwischenahner Meer, which only happens rarely. No shelter from the wind out on the ice.	
Fred	Scotland	After falling into the River Tay while rafting in the winter. My feet felt like they were going to fall off.	
Emma	Rockies, USA	Swimming in a glacial lake in the spring. It took my breath away. The snow on the banks was much warmer.	
Ben	Mt. Kenya	Sleeping outside Mackinder's hut on the slopes of Mt. Kenya. Tent was frozen stiff and I was freezing despite 10 layers of clothing Climbing on the equator meant we probably felt the	

		cold more due to the heat we'd experienced before.	
Christian	River Wye, Wales	Capsizing a canoe on the river near Ross on Wye last April during the cold snap. No wetsuit and still a 20 minute paddle to the end.	
Anthony	Beijing, China	Walking the streets in December. Air temperature of around -8°C (-17°C with wind chill). My nose hurt. A lot.	
Amanda	French Alps	Sitting on a broken-down chair lift for an hour on a shaded North-facing slope in sub-zero temperatures	
Phil	Mt. Kenya	'Sleeping' in a tent the night before heading for the summit of the mountain.	
Matt	St. Lary, French Pyrenees	Feb 2010 -22°C – corners of my eyes started freezing and inside of nose completely froze up	
Roo	Toronto	-25°C in the early 1980s.	
Duncan	Mt. Kilimanjaro	My hands have never felt colder than near the summit – my gloves weren't up to the job and I misjudged how cold it would be	
John	Auschwitz, Poland	Visited in Feb 2010, it was -14°C with snow on the ground. Thinking how horrific that place truly was. Most of W. Europe was covered with snow at the time. Clear sky during the day too.	
Laura	Australia	Camping in the desert right next to Uluru in July 2006. The temperature drop at night was phenomenal	

Tony	Nottingham, UK	Feb 2011, sat on a bus on the way to work at -10°C – had to walk up and down the aisle to keep warm	
Peter	Greenland	Camping in Greenland doing glacier fieldwork. Thermometer hit the bottom of its scale at -30°C (see image)	
Andrew	Durham , UK	Waiting for a train at the far end of the railway station platform.	
Marie	Namibia	Camping one summer, at midnight. My husband had lost his glasses, so had to stay out of the tent looking for them.	
Jane	Chicago, USA	In Chicago on a flight divered from Florida -22°C and I hadn't packed a coat!	
Rob	Everest Base Camp	On honeymoon. Our hot water bottles froze, and the yak dung fire didn't throw out much heat. As soon as the sun dropped behind the mountain, the temperature plummeted.	
Claire	Amsterdam, Netherlands	January 1984 - we had to buy hats and the camera shutter froze	
Vicky	Krakow, Poland	2009, -14°C – walking to the museum in a blizzard... the museum was closed, I think I may have cried	
Debra	Iceland	March 2008 – waiting up desperate to see the Northern Lights – temperature was only about -5°C but with wind chill it felt like -50°C – I did get to see the lights below, and they were like nothing else I've seen in my life	
Al	Coire an t'Sneachda, Cairngorms,	Jan 2003, after being avalanched below Jacob's Ladder. Shock and cold.	

	Scotland		
Bryony	New Zealand	Swimming with wild dolphins off Kaokora in May – was worth it though	
Elizabeth	Quebec, Canada	On a chairlift at -40°C Blizzard conditions made it painful but beautiful skiing	
Jennie	Edinburgh, Scotland	Hogmanay 2001 -11°C and even the whisky couldn't keep the cold out	
WBS Geography	Matterhorn	-28°C at the top of the Klein Matterhorn on a school ski trip a few years ago. Not a cloud in the sky, but blowing a gale.	
Rob	New York	Walking around the Statue of Liberty in February – I don't know the temperature but it was COLD !	
Bethan	Salar de Uyuni, Bolivia	In the mountains, staying with a family of 8. It was -23°C and we all slept in a little area around the fire. We ate llama they'd killed for dinner and then made socks out of the wool.	
Simon	Manchester Airport, UK	1am, 3 years ago -14°C, 3 days before Christmas	
Chris	Wales, UK	Camping on New Year's Eve -16°C plus windchill. So cold that the boiled kettle froze to the ground and the tea was a lump.	
Gordon	Iceland	About 60 miles from Reykjavik one Easter. Temperatures were below freezing, but it was the northerly wind that penetrated everywhere. Not a gusting but a steady moderately strong wind.	

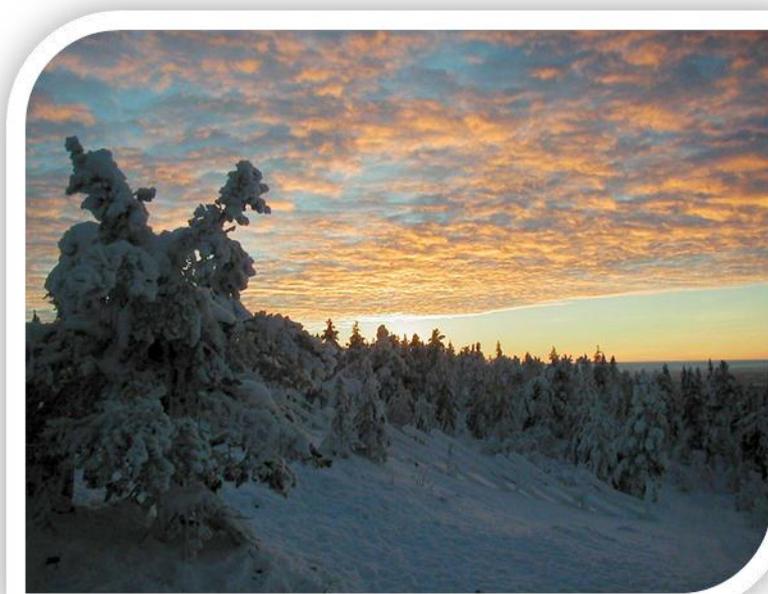


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Finland: Simon Williams