



Robert Swan

Robert Swan OBE is a polar explorer, environmentalist and renowned motivational speaker. The first person to walk to both Poles, he inspires corporate audiences with lessons on leadership, resilience, sustainability and the pursuit of bold goals in the most challenging conditions on earth.

KEY TOPICS

- Leadership Lessons from the Ends of the Earth
- Building Resilience and Mental Strength in Adversity
- Teamwork and Trust in Extreme Conditions
- Sustainability and the Future of Our Planet
- The 2041 Mission: Preserving Antarctica

BIOGRAPHY

Introduction

Robert Swan OBE is one of the world's most respected polar explorers and environmental leaders. The first person in history to walk to both the North and South Poles, he has transformed his extraordinary experiences into compelling lessons on resilience, leadership and sustainability for organisations worldwide.

Professional Background & Credentials

By the age of 33, Robert Swan had already earned his place in history by walking to both poles, with his 900-mile trek to the South Pole remaining the longest unassisted walk ever made. During these expeditions, he experienced the devastating early effects of climate change, from melting Arctic ice to the ozone hole over Antarctica. In 1992, he was invited to address the first World Summit for Sustainable Development, charged by world leaders with a ten-year mission to mobilise industry, business and young people in environmental action. Having reported back with success in 2002, he committed to a further decade of work promoting renewable energy and inspiring youth to become sustainable leaders. Through his organisation 2041, Swan has led corporate and youth expeditions to Antarctica, including the Inspire Antarctic Expeditions, which designed and built the world's first renewable energy education station, the E-Base. In 2008, he lived at the E-Base for two weeks powered solely by renewable energy to prove that sustainable solutions can succeed even in the harshest climates. He has also spearheaded numerous international initiatives, from removing 1,500 tonnes of waste from Antarctica to global voyages advocating clean energy, working alongside businesses, governments and NGOs.

Speaking Style & Audience Value

Robert Swan is regarded as one of the world's most compelling motivational speakers. His storytelling blends adventure, environmental insight and practical leadership lessons. Known for his authenticity and ability to connect with audiences, he delivers keynote speeches, workshops and corporate expeditions that leave participants with a renewed sense of purpose, resilience and responsibility. He compares the demands of polar exploration with business challenges, highlighting themes such as decision-making under pressure, teamwork,

adaptability, and achieving goals in the face of extreme adversity.

Awards and Recognition

- Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE)
- Polar Medal awarded by Her Majesty the Queen
- United Nations Global 500 Award
- United Nations NOVUS Summit Award for contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Appointed UN Goodwill Ambassador for Youth
- Special Envoy to the Director General of UNESCO
- Humanitarian Innovation Lifetime Achievement Award

High-Profile Collaborations

Robert has delivered keynote sessions for some of the world's most influential organisations, including BP, Coca-Cola, NASA, KPMG, Shell, and Unilever. He has also taken the stage at TED Global, the United Nations World Summit for Sustainable Development, and the World Economic Forum, inspiring leaders at the highest level. [Contact us now](#) for more information on how Robert can inspire your audience with extraordinary insights on leadership, resilience, and sustainability.

WHAT PEOPLE SAY

"As the founder of the Kellogg Innovation Network (KIN) at the Kellogg School of Management, I've seen hundreds of speakers at events worldwide. In all of my travels, I have not seen or worked with a speaker with more authenticity, energy and ethical power than Robert Swan. I've hired Robert twice for our global corporate clients, and Robert has graciously provided his magic for our University on a number of occasions. If you're looking for depth and insight followed by a standing ovation, hire Robert Swan."

— **Robert C. Wolcott Co-Founder, Kellogg Innovation Network (KIN); Partner, Clareo**

"If you have a heartbeat, you will be inspired by Robert Swan. Whether talking to C-suite executives or rising stars, Swan is uniquely poised to inspire people to stretch their ideas about what is possible— then to dig deep to achieve the extraordinary. He doesn't just change people's ideas: he changes their lives."

— **Founder, Corporate Eco Forum**

"Shell staff have participated in 2041 expeditions since 2009 and we have been pleased to have Robert Swan visit us as a speaker on more than one occasion. He and the 2041 team offer a unique proposition for business; real world awareness, advice and guidance blended with pragmatism and a strong sense of environmental stewardship."

— **Chief Climate Change Adviser, Shell Research Ltd**