

Ancient Life Discovered in Antarctica

Dale has told us horror stories of tents flying off across the ice.

This is easily the most _____ diving I've ever done.

Leaking in water.

Surface, surface.

The **quest** to film _____ and **otherworldly** lifeforms on our planet, took the team to Lake Untersee, the most remote dive location on Earth.

Lake Untersee is one of the largest freshwater lakes in _____ Antarctica. The ice that covers its surface never melts.

After weeks of trouble just getting to the research base, the team continues for another 140 kilometres transporting almost a ton of specialist _____.

More humans have touched down on the surface of the moon, **than** have dived in this lake.

The first task is to _____ camp. And the only place for that, is on the frozen surface of the lake.

So, what we're doing now is **putting the tents up** and then **weighting them down**, because the wind can _____ within 2 minutes.

No notice, a hundred miles an hour, and **literally** blow the camp down. So, we can't move without securing _____.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWudMQhER6g&ab_channel=BBCEarth



1:30

Beneath 3 metres of **solid** ice,
Lake Untersee is _____
living giant Stromatolites.

A life form so **hardy**, it can exist in
even the most extreme
conditions.

They have _____ freezing
temperatures here for thousands
of years.

This is the only place on the
planet where we have the
formation of these large, **conical** stromatolites, growing to the _____ that they do. This is what
makes this lake just so wonderful to study.

After 3 days of drilling, the hole is wide enough for the divers. Camera operators Justin and Hugh
suit up for their dive in some of the most dangerous waters in the world. With everything _____,
the team get ready to dive.

Justin and Hugh have special rebreather apparatus to allow them to _____ for longer.
Their **kit** is checked and **double checked**, as defective equipment **could prove fatal**. Finally, they're
ready.

Are you ready, Justin? - I'm very ready. I've never been so _____ to get into really cold water.

The water is just above freezing. The divers are expected to be underwater for 90 minutes. But just
minutes into the dive, Justin's breather **gear develops a _____**.

Three days from civilisation and help, they need to get him out fast.

- We're leaking in water.

A leak can mix with the equipment and create a _____, that could burn Justin's mouth and
lungs.

Surface, surface.

The team on the surface can do nothing _____ as calm as possible, and help lead
Justin back to the hole in the ice.

_____ (**long**) Justin is under, _____ (**high**) his
chances of **severe injury**.

4:21

You OK? - Yeah, I'm fine.

Justin's been lucky. He **aborted the dive** in _____, but they won't be able to dive again today.

- *It was totally fine, and then when we started to **descend**, water came forward, into our inhale, and it was spicy, _____ water.*

*It's been a disappointing day, but their troubles are **far from over**.*

As the wind **picks up**, it **heralds** a major Antarctic storm. The team **are confined to** their _____, and the storm **rages** into the following day for a full 24 hours.

- *Dale has told us horror stories of tents flying off across the ice. This could be a really long night.*

When the weather clears the next day, the team need to _____.

- *Our dive hole's filled with snow. And I've got to dig it out.*

Finally, conditions are perfect. Justin's gear has been repaired and it's time for another _____.

*What they finally see below, is beyond their wildest imagination. **Giant stromatolites.***

Ancient living organisms that have taken thousands of years to grow. They first appeared closer in time to the _____ of Earth, three and a half billion years ago, than the present day. Living fossils, thriving in one of the world's most extreme locations.

- *It feels like you're entering a portal to a different world, when you go through that hole in the ice. And then you get down there and it looks like something you've never seen in your _____ life.*

*Scientists hope that studying these giant stromatolites in such a **hostile environment**, will help us understand if there could be life on icy worlds _____ our own.*



This small hole in the ice of Lake Untersee could prove to be a window into _____ secrets on other planets.

