



DOG SLEDDING IN THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

Sledding over 200 kilometres from our base camp into the wilds of the most northern European country of Norway, this event proves the ultimate challenge for many participants.

An odyssey of ice, the teamwork between man and dog means the difference between life and death. Participants will need to go right back to basics, with many effectively re-learning the simple truths of life as a result of their experiences.

The nature of the event means that it is run with a relatively small number of participants (13 maximum). Each participant will have his/her own sled, pulled by 4-6 huskies. An ATD expedition leader, supported by an experienced expedition doctor and a local guide, will head up the expedition.

OUTLINE ITINERARY

DAY 1 – LONDON - OSLO - ALTA

We board our flights to Alta in the far north of Norway, via Oslo. In Alta we are met by our expedition leader and taken to our lodge. Here we receive additional equipment and clothing necessary to allow us to participate in the extreme conditions. Our Expedition leader will then brief us on safety issues associated with dog sledding and cabin life. Dinner is taken at our lodge and we then expect participants to take advantage of an early night.

Transfer 30 min
Gargia Hotel

We fly from London Heathrow to Alta via Oslo with Scandinavian Airlines, departing mid-morning and arriving early evening. Please note that flight schedules are subject to change.

DAY 2 – GARGIA – SOULUVOMBI

After breakfast we are shown how a dog sleds works, how to use the ice brake and snow anchor. The briefings over, we then put the theory into practice and some time is spent getting used to the basics of sledding. This is followed by a session where we are introduced to the dogs, shown



how to harness the dogs and attach them to the centre trace line that is, in turn, attached to the sleds.

Once everyone is ready we leave for our next location, Souluvombi. We travel through forest to reach higher ground before descending through forest again to arrive at the lodge. After we un-harness our dogs and put them onto their stakeout lines for the night and are then shown how to feed and care for the dogs, as we are expected to feed, harness and look after our own dogs for the entire trip.

Sledding 30km
Souluvombi Cabin

DAY 3 – SOULUVOMBI – MAZE

We begin with an early wake-up call as we need to feed the dogs early enough for them to digest their food before working. With everything ready and packed, the dogs are harnessed and the group sled towards Maze where our cabin awaits us. Having settled the dogs for the night, we have dinner in the cabin.

Sledding 25km
Maze Cabin

DAY 4 – MAZE – NEDRE MOLLISJOKK

After an early breakfast, we feed the dogs and pack ready to sled to Mollisjokk. The terrain is mountainous and above the tree line and there are many up and downhill sections today.

Sledding 55km
Mollisjokk Cabins

DAY 5 – NEDRE MOLLISJOKK – JOTKA

Today we follow the Jiesjokka River all the way to Jiesavri Lake and Jotka. Jiesjavri is the biggest lake in the Finnmark area. Being on this big frozen lake really gives the feeling of being in the middle of nowhere.

Sledding 35km
Jotka mountain lodge



DAY 6 – JOTKA – GARGIA

From Jotka it is downhill all the way back to Gargia where a hot tub and a sauna are waiting. Before dinner we have the chance to head off to the Ice Hotel (which is a smaller copy of the famous Ice hotel in Sweden) for a drink or two followed by transport back to our lodge in Gargia- this is an optional activity.

Sledding 55km

Gargia Hotel

DAY 7 – ALTA – OSLO – LONDON

After breakfast we are transferred to Alta airport for our flights back to the UK arriving the same day (subject to flight confirmation).

We fly from Alta to London Heathrow via Oslo with Scandinavian Airlines, departing late morning and arriving back in the UK late afternoon. Please note that flight schedules are subject to change.

*There is the opportunity to book an optional snow mobile tour on either the afternoon of day 6 or the morning of day 7.

NOTES

- We recommend that this event is run between late-January and early-April when the temperatures are not too low and the days are longer. Although the season does start in late November there is a slight risk that there will not be sufficient permanent snow at this time of year. During March the daylight lasts between 12 and 16 hours and the temperature generally ranges from -5 °C to -30 °C.
- The event will be tiring and physically demanding. As a result of the extreme cold (temperatures can fall as low as -30°C) participants must be aware that the experience will require a reasonably high level of endurance. That said, we have put together a challenge that is fully achievable and which offers tremendous rewards to those that approach it with the correct preparation and spirit!
- This route is subject to change due to weather conditions, permits and the overall fitness of the group.
- Each day will comprise about eight hours of activity.

- Visas are not needed for UK passport holders. Other nationalities will need to make their own checks.
- Venture provided by Across the Divide to British Standard 8848, *Specification for the provision of visits, fieldwork, expeditions and adventurous activities outside the UK*. Self declared.