



Greenland Ski Traverse

Expedition Notes

April 16 – May 19, 2012

All material Copyright © Adventure Consultants Ltd

In 1888 Fritjof Nansen completed the first traverse of Greenland on skis in an epic journey of hardship and discovery. Nansen built large sleds for the journey which were the first of their type and required several men to haul them.

In April/May of 2012 Adventure Consultants are embarking on a ski traverse across the icy interior of Greenland. The aim will be to cross the island from Ammassalik/Kulusuk on the East Coast to Sondre Stromfjord on the West Coast, a distance of 335 miles (540km). The entire expedition will take place over a 34 day period.

The expedition will be flown by helicopter from Ammassalik onto the icecap at the beginning of the traverse and from here we will travel an average of around 18-20km each day. Team members will haul sleds weighing (initially) around 80kg with all the provisions for the entire journey. At the end of our journey we will be collected by vehicle and transported the short distance to Sondre Stromfjord for our flights home.

Team members will require previous backcountry winter experience on skis and the ability to work well within a team environment. The nature of this expedition demands strong team cohesion and commitment. An essential ingredient for participants is physical fortitude for working hard in a cold weather environment hence each member must be strong and healthy.

We have programmed our traverse to take place over the early summer season when conditions are the most favourable and we can anticipate temperatures in the range of – 25°C on the coldest days.

Who will lead the expedition?

Adventure Consultants guide Einar Finnsson will be leading the expedition on the traverse.

Einar has completed two crossings of the Greenland Icecap and several other expeditions in the Arctic including; north- south crossings of the Icelandic highlands, crossings of the Vatnajökull glacier, two circle tours in Ammassalik Island in east Greenland and an expedition to the uninhabited Hornstrandir region of north-west Iceland.

How the expedition will operate

The group will meet in Reykjavik in Iceland for team introductions and final equipment preparation before flying on the next morning to Kulusuk in Greenland. From Kulusuk we will be transported to Ammassalik and onto the icecap to begin the adventure.

Each day the team will haul sleds with scheduled stops at regular intervals for food and liquid. At the completion of each day's journey, the team will assemble tents where the camp duties will be shared amongst the team.

The expedition will gradually climb to the high point of the icecap to around 2000m and then begin the long descent towards Greenland's west coast.

We descend from the glacier at the end of the ski tour to meet vehicle transport for the drive to Sondre Stromfjord and the finishing point of the expedition.

Travel

There are routine flights into Reykjavik (Iceland) and out of Sondre Stromford (Greenland) from either the UK or Copenhagen.

Equipment

Adventure Consultants will supply all group gear (e.g. tents, stoves, food and sleds) whilst expedition members are to provide their own personal clothing and equipment including skis, skins and boots. A comprehensive equipment list will be provided to expedition members upon confirmation of your participation.

Safety and Communications

To safeguard members of the expedition we will be carrying a satellite telephone and a Personal Locator Beacon. Evacuation insurance whilst on the trek will be included in the expedition fee but is limited to cover legitimate accident only and is limited to evacuation to the nearest port within Greenland. We require expedition members to carry additional insurance for evacuation and repatriation as well as normal travel medical expenses. Contact us for expedition insurance advice.

Itinerary – April 16 to May 19, 2012

We recommend that team members book 'open' air travel tickets to cater to changes in itinerary at the end of the trip.

- Day 1 Meet in Reykjavik, Iceland
 - 2 Gear preparation
 - 3 Fly Reykjavik to Kulusuk, Greenland. Transfer to Ammassalik.
 - 4 Preparations in Ammassalik.
 - 5 Helicopter flight Ammassalik to icecap at approx 1000m, begin trek
 - 6-32 Trek crossing days
 - 33 Descend icecap, transport to Sondre Stromfjord
 - 34 Depart Sondre Stromfjord for flight home
-

The Expedition Fee

The cost of the expedition is: **US \$14,000** per person ex Reykjavik, Iceland

The expedition fee includes:

- Adventure Consultants guides
- All expedition organisational requirements
- All permits for the expedition
- Transport within Greenland
- Food and hotel ex Reykjavik (twin share)
- Expedition food and equipment
- Flights from Reykjavik to Kulusuk
- Tents, stoves, sleds & harness

The expedition fee **does not** include the following:

- International airfare to Reykjavik and return ex Sondre Stromfjord
 - Personal clothing and equipment
 - Personal travel insurance & trip cancellation insurance
 - Airport transfers
 - Hotel and personal expenses in Reykjavik.
 - Costs for delays longer than 4 nights in Kulusuk (Ammasalik) / Sondre Stromfjord
 - Personal rescue/medical evacuation costs beyond Greenland
 - Any costs associated with leaving the expedition early
 - Overweight/Excess baggage fees
-

Visas

Generally entry Visas are not required for travellers staying less than three months in Greenland but please check with your travel agent. The expedition ski traverse permits are a separate matter dealt with by the expedition agent.

Payments

All payments should be made by bank transfer to the following bank and account:

**Bank of New Zealand
Offshore Branch**

**1 Willis St
Wellington
New Zealand**

for the account of **Adventure Consultants Limited**

Account # 1000-594771-0000

Account Type: **US Dollars**

Swift Address: **BKNZNZ22**

Note: All bank transfer charges are for the remitters account.

Or, we can accept a US Dollar bank check made out to Adventure Consultants Limited.

We can accept your deposit payment by credit card – **Visa, Mastercard or Amex**. The balance payment needs to be paid in US dollars via bank transfer/telegraphic transfer or we can accept a credit card payment plus a 3% surcharge.

Deposit

A non-refundable deposit of US \$2,000 is payable to secure a place on the expedition.

Balance

The balance of **US \$12,000** is payable by 16 January 2012.

Cancellation & Refund Policy

An expedition member may cancel his/her participation on the following basis:

- A Prior to 16 February 2012, a refund of 50% of the 16 January 2012 payment.
- B After 16 February 2012 there will be no refunds.

Team members should take out private insurance if they wish to be covered against cancellation due to medical or personal reasons. This is called Trip Cancellation insurance and can be obtained through your normal travel agent.

Team Membership

The team will have a **minimum size of 4 members and 1 guide** and a **maximum size of 8 members and 2 guides**.

Food

Food will be of the highest standard possible, given the remoteness of the situation. As we are hauling all of the gear and food for a month long period, it is usual for food to be somewhat monotonous! However, we are planning our cuisine to be varied and nourishing to ensure energy levels are maintained. Please inform us if you have any special dietary requirements.

Equipment List

These days our equipment has improved dramatically since Nansen's time allowing us to undertake this significant adventure with considerably less hardship! However, the equipment we do take must be of the highest quality and appropriate for the specific requirements we will encounter.

Expedition members will be sent a list detailing all necessary clothing and equipment for you to bring as part of your kit. Obviously weight is everything and hence we will rationalize every item we are to carry. A gear check will be carried out prior to departing Reykjavik to allow us to finalise loads.

Marketing

While the official name of the expedition will remain the "Adventure Consultants' Greenland Ski Traverse Expedition 2012", you can for personal marketing purposes use another name if it will assist you in any way. You will also be completely free to enter into personal agreements with sponsors or supporters if you wish.

Medical Examination

Expedition members will be provided with a medical questionnaire and asked to visit their family physician and receive a full medical examination. This information will be sighted only by our medical adviser and treated with full confidentiality. Advice on immunisations will be provided at this time.

Documentation and Photographs

Expedition members will need to provide 2 passport photographs for various the permits and a copy of their passport bio-data page.

The advantages of expeditioning with us

Adventure Consultants is renowned for the quality of its service and strategy applied to high altitude expedition climbing. Our reputation is attributed to meticulous planning and experienced logistics coordination. We have a philosophy of investing in every expedition to offer our climbers the best possible chance of success.

We employ strong and specialised Expedition leaders and support staff, whom are some of the most pre-eminent in the industry. We pride ourselves on operating with small teams, the best back-up and support available. This includes nutritious and ample quantities of food, comfortable base camp facilities, reliable communications systems and the necessary medical back up.

Many of our expedition members come to us because they have seen us in action on a previous trip and decide to opt for our level of service and proven experience. Others return because they know we do our very best to make expeditions safe and successful.

How to join this expedition

If you would like to join the expedition please request an Expedition Application Form and forward along with a list of your skiing and outdoor experience, and the deposit for the trip.

If you require more information please contact us at;

Adventure Consultants Ltd.
PO Box 739, 58 McDougall St
Wanaka, 9343
New Zealand

Ph + 64 3 443 8711 Fax + 64 3 443 8733

Email: info@adventure.co.nz

Website: www.adventureconsultants.com



Adventure Consultants – is affiliated to the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association (NZMGA), New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) and a corporate member of the American Alpine Club (AAC). Adventure Consultants perform to IFMGA standards and are world leaders in high altitude guiding.