



North Pole – All The Way

Expedition Notes

February 28 – April 27 2012

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The North Pole is the Everest of Polar expeditions. Surrounded by sea ice and in total darkness for half the year, the Pole is attainable only during a short 'window' of time. If too early, darkness and extremely cold temperatures prevail. If too late the Arctic Ocean is transformed into a watery enshrouded pack of drifting sea ice. The expedition will travel and live on the polar pack ice, navigate over pressure ridges, search for routes around open leads of water and camp on multi-year pans of ice.

Challenges aside, an expedition to the top of the world is an amazing experience. It is difficult to describe the beauty of the soft light, the variety of snow crystals and the ever-changing colours of the ice that are a feature of travel in the polar regions.

Who will lead the expedition?

The Adventure Consultants team includes experienced Arctic/Antarctic travellers whose knowledge and expertise is imperative in making these expeditions a success. The guides for each trek are confirmed 6 months prior to departure time.

How the expedition will operate

Getting started

Our North Pole expedition starts in Resolute, Northern Canada with a training trip to build the team and test clothing and equipment. From Resolute we fly north by Twin Otter to Ward Hunt Island, a small island just off northern Ellesmere Island. From Ward Hunt to the Geographic North Pole is 416 nautical miles (770 km) of arctic pack ice. Once the North Pole is reached we fly back to Longyearbyen, Norway and the expedition concludes here.

This ice is always shifting; leads crack open and pressure ridges build into massive walls of ice chunks. To add to the challenge of it all is the extreme cold temperatures, often as cold as -40 °C.

On this expedition we are stepping into the ski tracks left by the legendary arctic explorers! It will be the same landscapes, the same wind that will push you forward or on the contrary, will hamper your movement northwards. The same ice hummocks will block your way and you will have to negotiate them. Drifting ice fields will not respect the hard work or the tremendous effort required to move forward, but challenges aside, with a lot of hard work, and after almost 60 days, you'll reach the top of the planet.

Itinerary

Day 1: Meet in **Resolute Bay, Canada**. Transfer from airport to hotel. Evening orientation and welcome reception. Start checking gear and reviewing expedition logistics after dinner

Day 2-5: Team training and shakedown outside of Resolute Bay.

Day 6: Charter flight to Eureka weather station, then on to Ward Hunt Island.

Day 7: Depart Ward Hunt Island onto the pack ice. Begin skiing towards North Pole.

Day 8-57: Ski across the dynamic pack ice of the Arctic Ocean towards the North Pole. Each day will present its own challenges such as endless pressure ridges, open water leads, and possible negative drift. As you approach the last few degrees your sleds will be lighter and your efforts encouraged by your progress.

Day 58: Upon reaching the North Pole you'll have time to celebrate this monumental achievement before being picked up by helicopter and flown to the Borneo Ice Station. Time permitting we'll spend the night at the North Pole, or possibly the Borneo Ice Station.

Day 59: From the pack ice we'll fly via charter air to **Longyearbyen, Norway**. Back in civilization, you'll have a chance to shower, eat delicious meals prepared by some of the finest chefs in the high Arctic, and enjoy this wonderful town that is rich in Arctic history, yet has all the comforts of home. The team will take this day to wrap-up loose ends and ease their way back into regular life.

Day 60: Breakfast at Longyearbyen lodge. Transport to airport. Depart for flights home.

What will I carry?

Each team member will have a high tech sled built specifically for Arctic/Antarctic use. These will be loaded with personal gear as well as a share of the expedition equipment. Each sled is estimated to weigh around 90-100kg at the beginning of the trek and reduce by 40 kg over the duration of each leg as food and fuel is consumed.

Most Arctic travellers prefer to carry their complete load on the sled rather than carry a backpack.

The daily routine

We share tents and the chores of cooking. The coldest part of the day will be in the breakdown of the camp as we pack sleds and begin the daily trek. Each day we will move for 8-10 hours with regular rests for food and fluid intake. Once we reach our camping destination for the day we set up the tents and build snow walls to protect the tents from wind.

How cold will it be?

The effective temperature is defined by the strength of the wind. Temperatures will be in the range of – 40 degrees C (and F) to 0 degrees C (32 degrees F). As the team nears the pole and spring sets in, temperatures will rise and the ice will constantly break, making forward progress sometimes agonizingly slow. Ultimately a lot will depend on the season and the general weather patterns. Weather analysis will be provided by experts in Polar meteorology which will assist us in being forewarned of major weather systems.

What will I wear?

For most of the trek members need only be clad in fleece clothing with windproof shells. Warm expedition mittens and hats will be necessary in addition to a facemask to keep wind and blowing snow at bay. Lightweight down clothing will help members endure the cold starts and be additional warmth (if needed) in the sleeping bag.

What equipment do I need and what will be provided?

We supply all of the team equipment and you will only need your personal equipment. We supply sleds, tents, stoves, pots, food and fuel, ropes and sled harnesses, GPS and telecommunication equipment.

You will need to supply all your own clothing, sleeping gear and ski equipment. If you wish we can assist with the purchase of equipment and clothing suitable to the expedition.

A full equipment list will be sent to you on confirmation of booking.

Communication equipment

We carry the latest in satellite communication equipment on our expeditions, facilitating good contact with the outside world. This also improves safety in that we have instant communications with rescue services in the unlikely event an evacuation is required. It is possible for you to utilize our equipment or you may bring your own but we request you confirm with us to establish power requirements can be met.

What about rescue considerations?

It is sometimes possible for evacuations to take place along the route if necessary. But expedition members need to fully understand that evacuation is not an 'on demand' service and weather conditions can preclude flights for days or even weeks at a time. The best way to protect oneself against problems of this nature is to be fully prepared, both physically and mentally for an adventure of this magnitude. Additionally, rescue can be very expensive and we require expedition members to be fully insured against this possibility.

The Expedition Fee

The cost of the expedition is approximately: **US \$45,000** per person. A minimum of four members and one guide are required for this trip to run. This price is not fixed and interested parties should contact our office for an updated price.

This is an inclusive cost and covers the following;

- Adventure Consultants polar guide(s)
- All expedition organisational requirements
- Polar Training
- Advice on personal clothing & equipment
- Transfer from Resolute airport to hotel
- All chartered air transportation from Resolute and return
- Sleds, Tents & all group camping gear
- All food while on the ice
- Regular written and photo internet dispatches for families and friends to watch your progress
- Access to our satellite phone facilities

The expedition fee does not include the following:

- Round trip airfare to Resolute Bay, Canada and from Longyearbyen, Norway
 - Hotels and meals in Resolute Bay and Eureka (if weather delayed)
 - Personal clothing and some equipment
 - Full medical, baggage, trip cancellation and evacuation insurance (required)
 - Excess baggage costs and costs for shipping bags to Longyearbyen
 - Costs of satellite phone calls
 - Extended stay fees associated with weather delays
 - Gratuity
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Visas

Generally entry Visas are not required for travellers staying less than three months in Canada and Norway but please check with your travel agent according to your nationality.

Payments

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

**Bank of New Zealand
Offshore Branch
Wellington
New Zealand**

for the account of

Adventure Consultants Limited
Account # **1000-594771-0000**

Account type: US Dollars

Deposit

A deposit of US\$10,000 is payable to secure a place on the expedition.

Balance

The balance will be payable 120 days before the scheduled start of the expedition.

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**.

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 the various 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 polar journeys and 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, who 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, 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;

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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.