

A wide-angle photograph of a polar expedition team on a vast, flat, snow-covered landscape under a clear blue sky. Several team members are visible, some pulling sleds. The terrain is mostly white with some blue-tinged snow patches. The sky is a uniform light blue.

# GREENLAND CROSSING NANSEN ROUTE 2019 TRIP NOTES



## Greenland Crossing Nansen Route Expedition Notes

Departures Available on Demand

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**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.**

Between the months of July and September, Adventure Consultants offer the opportunity to embark on a ski traverse to follow in Nansen's tracks, repeating this incredible journey. The aim is to cross the island from Umivik on the East Coast to Nuuk on the West Coast, a distance of 450km (280 miles), as Nansen did 130 years ago. The entire expedition will take place over a 32-day period.



The expedition will set out by boat from Tasiilaq to the small bay of Umivik, at the beginning of the traverse, and from here we will travel an average of around 18-20km (11-12.5 miles)

each day. Team members will haul sleds weighing (initially) around 75kg (165lbs) with all the provisions for the entire journey. When we reach land at the top of the Austmannaldalen Valley on the western edge of the ice sheet, a helicopter will collect the equipment that is no longer required for the final four-day hike to the western shore. As we trek through landscapes that are in stark contrast to the endless snows of the ice sheet, it is likely that we will see reindeer, musk oxen, snow hares and arctic foxes in big numbers. At the end of our journey, we will be collected by boat and transported the short distance to Nuuk and our flights back to Reykjavik.



*Crossing the ice cap. Photo Björgvin Hilmarsson*

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 summer season when conditions are the most favourable and we can anticipate temperatures in the range of  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-13\text{F}$ ) on the coldest days.

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### **Expedition Leaders**

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

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### **How the Expedition Operates**

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 by boat to Umivik Bay 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 ice cap to around 2,300m and then begin the long descent towards Greenland's West Coast.

We descend from the glacier at the end of the ski tour to make the four-day trek to the western shore, where we are met by boat for the final transfer to Nuuk. From here we fly to Reykjavík where the expedition officially ends.

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## **Travel**

There are routine flights into Reykjavik (Iceland) from either the UK or Copenhagen.

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## **Equipment**

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 rationalise every item we are to carry. A gear check will be carried out prior to departing Reykjavik to allow us to finalise loads.

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.

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## **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 accidents 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.

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## **Itinerary**

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

- 1 Meet in Reykjavik, Iceland
- 2 Gear preparation
- 3 Fly Reykjavik to Kulusuk, Greenland. Transfer to Tasiilaq
- 4 Boat transfer along rugged coast to small bay of Umivik, where we begin the

|       |   |
|-------|---|
|       | crossing  |
| 5-25  | Trek crossing days  |
| 26-29 | Hike down the Austmannaldalen Valley to the shore front where a boat awaits to bring us back to Greenland's capital, Nuuk |
| 30    | Spare day   |
| 31    | Flight to Reykjavik   |
| 32    | Depart Reykjavik for home   |

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## Expedition Fee

The expedition departs ex Reykjavik, Iceland. Please enquire for pricing details.

### The expedition fee includes:

- Adventure Consultants polar 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 and Nuuk to Reykjavik
- Tents, stoves, sleds & harness

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

- International airfare to Reykjavik and return
  - 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 (Tasiilaq) / Nuuk
  - Personal rescue/medical evacuation costs beyond Greenland
  - Any costs associated with leaving the expedition early
  - Overweight/Excess baggage fees
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## Visas

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

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## Payments

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

**Bank of New Zealand**

**Offshore Branch**

**1 Willis Street**

**Wellington**

**New Zealand**

for the account of **Adventure Consultants Limited**

**Account #**                    **1000-594771-0002**

**Account Type:**            **Euros**

**Swift Address:**            **BKNZ22**

Note: All bank transfer charges are for the **remitter's account**.

We can also accept your deposit and balance payment by credit card (Visa, Mastercard or Amex) plus a 3% credit card fee.

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### **Deposit**

**A non-refundable deposit of EUR€2,000** is payable to secure a place on the expedition.

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### **Balance**

The balance is payable 120 days prior to the trip start date.

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### **Cancellation and Refund Policy**

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

- Cancellations outside of 120 days of the departure date incur the loss of the deposit payment.
- Cancellations between 119-90 days of the departure date incur 50% of balance payment.
- For cancellation made within 89 days of the departure date, 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 expedition operates at a member to guide ratio of four team members per guide. We can arrange departures for a range of group sizes, please enquire for more information.

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## **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.

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## **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.

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## **Documentation and Photographs**

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

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## **The Advantages of Expeditioning with Us**

Adventure Consultants is renowned for the quality of its service and strategy applied to high altitude expedition climbing and polar travel. 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, 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.

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## 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, 20 Brownston St  
Wanaka, 9343  
New Zealand

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

Email: [info@adventure.co.nz](mailto:info@adventure.co.nz)

Website: [www.adventureconsultants.com](http://www.adventureconsultants.com)



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Adventure Consultants perform to IFMGA standards and are world leaders in high altitude guiding.*

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