Located in the breathtaking Watkins Mountains, where massive mountains rise directly from the icecap, Mount Gunnbjörn (3,694m/12,119ft) is not only Greenland’s highest mountain but also the highest peak in the Arctic.

Because of the huge size of Greenland, Mount Gunnbjörn has often been referred to as the 8th continental peak. Mount Gunnbjörn is located in the Watkins Mountains on the east coast, where the conditions are pristine and in many ways similar to those in Antarctica.

Whilst a remote and wild part of the world, Mount Gunnbjörn is easily accessible by ski-plane from Iceland. We make the flight over several legs, taking in spectacular scenery as we fly across this vast part of the Arctic.

Once in the Watkins Mountains, we set up a comfortable Base Camp at the foot of the mountain. This is planned as a snow shoe expedition and the majority of the climb can easily be done on snow shoes with only the last section requiring crampons. However, it is also possible to ascend (and descend!) on skis if the group desires.

The expedition will begin in Reykjavik, Iceland, where we will meet with the rest of the team and Expedition Leader for an initial briefing and gear check. The next morning we fly to the town of Akureyri and then on by privately chartered ski-plane to Greenland. After taking off from Akureyri, a brief refuelling stop will be made in Isafjörður, a small fishing village in the Westfjords of Iceland, in order to have a completely full tank for the remaining leg of the journey. Because of the limited capacity of the ski-plane, more than one flight might be needed to transfer the group to Greenland.

We can establish our Base Camp close to the landing site, right in the middle of the Watkins Mountains, or we may decide to move a bit higher on the glacier, closer to the mountain to gain more altitude and make the summit day shorter.
Mount Gunnbjörn will be climbed in one long day from Base Camp. Gentle slopes lead to the summit ridge where snow shoes will be left behind and the rest climbed using crampons. As the peak is located high in the Arctic, the air is thinner than on similar altitude summits elsewhere, so feels higher than its 3,694m/12,119ft.

From the Watkins Mountains, we fly back to Akureyri and from there to Reykjavík where the expedition officially ends.

**PREREQUISITE EXPERIENCE**

Although not technically difficult, the ascent of Mount Gunnbjörn is fairly strenuous and prior experience in winter travel and glacier crossing is important. Participants should be physically and mentally prepared for several days out in a remote area where harsh weather and conditions can be expected. A good level of fitness and the ability to work as part of a small team is also important.

**2021 EXPEDITION DATES**

**Trip 1:** May 23–29, 2021  
**Trip 2:** May 27 to June 2, 2021

**ITINERARY**

| Day 1 | Arrive in Reykjavik, Iceland |
| Day 2 | Team briefing and gear checks |
| Day 3 | Fly Reykjavik to Akureyri, then from Akureyri to Greenland to establish Base Camp |
| Day 4 | Move to High Camp (if used), equipment preparation and technical skills refresher |
| Day 5 | Ascent of Mount Gunnbjörn and return to High Camp or Base Camp |
| Day 6 | Contingency day to climb Mount Gunnbjörn or other summits in the Watkins Mountains |
| Day 7 | Flight back to Iceland, trip ends |

**NOTE:** We recommend that team members allow flexibility with air travel arrangements at the end of the expedition to cater for delays or itinerary changes.

**TEAM SIZE**

The team will have a minimum size of 3 members and 1 guide and a maximum size of 8 members and 2 guides.
THE ADVANTAGES OF CLIMBING WITH
ADVENTURE CONSULTANTS

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, utilising 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.

FOOD

Food will be of the highest standard possible, given the remoteness of the situation. Our cuisine will be varied and nourishing to ensure health and energy levels are maintained and the group will gather together in our dining tent for breakfast and evening meals.

Please inform us in advance if you have any special dietary requirements.

SAFETY & COMMUNICATIONS

To safeguard members of the expedition, we will be carrying a satellite telephone and emergency supplies to last one week. Evacuation insurance is included in the expedition fee for the period of the climb, but is limited to legitimate accident only and to the nearest port within Greenland. We require expedition members to carry additional insurance for repatriation as well as normal travel medical expenses. Please contact us for expedition insurance advice.
MEDICAL EXAMINATION

Expedition members will be provided with a medical questionnaire and asked to visit their family physician to receive a full medical examination. This information will be sighted by our medical adviser and the guides only and is treated with full confidentiality.

TRAVEL TO REYKJAVÍK

There are regular flights from destinations around the UK/Europe and North America into Iceland’s main international terminal at Keflavik Airport. Regular shuttles depart from the airport for the 50km journey into Reykjavík, and will drop off at your accommodation.

VISAS

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

DOCUMENTATION & PHOTOGRAPHS

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

EQUIPMENT LIST

Expedition members will be sent a list detailing all the necessary clothing and equipment to bring as part of your kit. As the ski-plane has limited capacity and we will move our whole camp several times, weight is everything and 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.

EXPEDITION FEE

The cost of the expedition ex Reykjavík, Iceland is €20,500 per person:
This is an inclusive cost and covers the following:

- Adventure Consultants Mountain Guides
- All expedition organisational requirements
- Expedition permits
- Expedition food and equipment
- Flights from Reykjavik to Akureyri and return
- Privately chartered ski-plane from Akureyri to the Watkins Mountains and return
- Group equipment: ropes, sleds, tents, stoves, cookware, etc.
- Emergency evacuation insurance

The expedition fee does not include the following:

- International airfare to Reykjavik and return
- Personal clothing and equipment
- Personal travel/trip cancellation insurance
- Personal rescue and medical evacuation costs beyond Greenland
- Airport transfers
- Hotel and personal expenses in Reykjavik
- Excess baggage over 20kg of personal luggage (and 6kg of hand luggage of limited volume)
- Any costs associated with an early departure from the expedition
- Gratuity

PLEASE NOTE: Pricing may change due to increases in airfares and other costs outside the control of Adventure Consultants.

PAYMENT DETAILS

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

Bank of New Zealand  
Offshore Branch  
42 Willis Street  
Spark Central  
Wellington  
New Zealand

For the account of Adventure Consultants Limited

Account Number: 1000-594771-0002  
Account Type: Euros  
Swift Address: BKNZNZ22

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, and Amex).

DEPOSIT

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

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

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

An expedition member may then cancel their participation on the following basis:

- Cancellations outside of 120 days will result in the loss of the trip deposit.
- For cancellations made within 120 days of the trip commencement date we reserve the right to retain 50% of the balance payment fee.
- For cancellations within 90 days of the departure date a cancellation fee of 100% of the full fee applies.

We strongly recommend you take out trip cancellation insurance via your travel agent if you wish to be covered against cancellation due to medical or personal reasons.

HOW TO JOIN THIS EXPEDITION

If you would like to join one of our 2021 Mount Gunnbjörn Expeditions, please complete our online application form at https://www.adventureconsultants.com/expeditions/arctic/mt-gunnbjorn/book-now and submit your trip deposit.

CONTACT US

Please contact us if you’d like any further information or assistance in planning your trip:

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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 is a supporter of the dZi Foundation in Nepal for their ‘Revitalise a Village’ programmes.

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

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