



# NORTH POLE ALL THE WAY



2020 EXPEDITION TRIP NOTES





# NORTH POLE ALL THE WAY EXPEDITION NOTES

## 2020 EXPEDITION DETAILS

**Dates:** February 26 to April 25, 2020

**Duration:** 60 days

**Departure:** ex Resolute Bay, Canada

**Price:** Price on Application

▲ An epic journey to the North Pole. Photo: Leifur Örn Svavarsson

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 extreme cold prevail. If too late, the Arctic Ocean is transformed into a water-enshrouded pack of drifting sea ice.

The expedition will travel and live on the polar pack ice, navigating over pressure ridges, searching for routes around open leads of water and camping 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.

## ABOUT THE EXPEDITION

Our North Pole expedition starts in Resolute, 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 north of Ellesmere Island. From Ward Hunt to the Geographic North Pole is 770km/416 nautical miles of Arctic pack ice.

Once the North Pole is reached we fly onwards to Longyearbyen in Norway and the conclusion of the expedition.

This ice is always shifting; fractures crack open and pressure ridges build into massive walls of ice chunks. To add to the challenge of it all are the extreme cold temperatures, often down as low as  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}/-40^{\circ}\text{F}$ .

On this expedition we are stepping into the ski tracks left by the legendary Arctic explorers! It will be the same landscapes we will see and the same wind that will push us forward or, on the contrary, will hamper our movement northwards. The same ice hummocks will block our way and we 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, we'll reach the top of the planet.



A dynamic and challenging landscape. Photo: Icelandic Mountain Guides

## DAILY ROUTINE ON THE EXPEDITION

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.

## TEMPERATURE

The effective temperature is defined by the strength of the wind and will be in the range of 0°C/32°F to -40°C/-40°F. As the team nears the pole and spring sets in, temperatures will rise and the ice will constantly break, making forward progress sometimes agonisingly 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.

## TEAM SIZE

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

## EXPEDITION DATES & ITINERARY

**Dates:** February 26 to April 25, 2020

**NOTE:** Dates are subject to change.

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Day 1

The team meets in Resolute Bay, Canada. We transfer from the airport to hotel for an evening orientation and welcome reception. Following dinner, we begin checking gear and reviewing expedition logistics.

### Days 2–5

These days are dedicated to team training and shakedown outside of Resolute Bay.

### Day 6

We charter a flight to Eureka weather station, then onto Ward Hunt Island.

### Day 7

The team departs Ward Hunt Island onto the pack ice and begins skiing towards the North Pole.

### Day 8–57

We 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 we approach the last few degrees, our sleds will be lighter and our efforts encouraged by our progress.

### Day 58

Upon reaching the North Pole, we'll have time to celebrate this monumental achievement before being picked up by helicopter and flown to the Borneo Ice Station. Depending on time, we may also spend the night at the North Pole.



▲ Terrain can be difficult to negotiate at times. Photo: Leifur Örn Svarsson



▲ Establish camp each night. Photo: Leifur Örn Svarsson



▲ Spend valuable time training prior to departure. Photo: Alexander Pancoe

## Day 59

From the pack ice we'll fly via air charter to Longyearbyen, Norway. Back in civilization, we'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 our way back into regular life.

## Day 60

We have breakfast at our Longyearbyen lodge before transferring to the airport and departing for our flights home.

## ADVANTAGES OF JOINING ADVENTURE CONSULTANTS ON AN EXPEDITION

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, specialised and highly experienced 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.

## SAFETY & COMMUNICATIONS

We carry the latest in satellite communication equipment on our expeditions, facilitating good contact with the outside world. This also improves safety, as 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.



▲ Negotiating large blocks of ice. Photo: Leifur Örn Svavarsson

## RESCUE CONSIDERATIONS

It is sometimes possible for evacuations to take place along the route if necessary. 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.

## EQUIPMENT

### EQUIPMENT LIST

We supply all team equipment, including sleds, tents, stoves, pots, food and fuel, ropes and sled harnesses, GPS and telecommunication equipment.

You will need to supply all your own personal equipment, including 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 upon confirmation of booking.

### CLOTHING

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 provide additional warmth as required in the sleeping bag.

## WHAT WILL I CARRY?

Each team member will have a high-tech sled built specifically for polar 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/200-220lb at the beginning of the trek and will reduce by 40kg/90lb 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.

## VISA REQUIREMENTS

Citizens of certain countries and territories are required to obtain a visa to visit or transit through Canada. Visa-exempt foreign nationals are expected to have an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA). Exceptions to this include US citizens, but please check with your travel agent for the latest information prior to travelling.

EU citizens and citizens of countries with whom Norway has signed a visa waiver agreement do not require a visitor's visa for stays of less than 90 days. Please check your status with the Norwegian authorities or your travel agent.

## MEDICAL EXAMINATION

Expedition members will be provided with pre-trip medical advice and a medical questionnaire. You will be asked to visit your family physician and receive a full medical examination. This information will be sighted only by the Expedition Leader and our medical adviser and treated with full confidentiality.



▲ Reaching the North Pole is an amazing achievement. Photo: Leifur Örn Svavarsson

## DOCUMENTATION & PHOTOGRAPHS

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

## THE EXPEDITION FEE

The price for this expedition is available on application.

This will be 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, Canada, 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, Canada, and from Longyearbyen, Norway
- Hotels and meals in Resolute and/or Eureka
- 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

## PAYMENT DETAILS

Expedition fee, deposit amount and balance payment date will be advised upon application.

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

Bank of New Zealand  
Offshore Branch  
1 Willis Street  
Wellington  
New Zealand



▲ Spectacular landscapes in every direction. Photo: Leifur Örn Svavarsson

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

## DEPOSIT

A deposit amount will be advised upon application.

## BALANCE PAYMENT

The balance is payable 150 days prior to the commencement of the trip.

## CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

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

- Cancellations outside of 150 days of the departure date incur the loss of the deposit payment.
- Cancellations between 149–90 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.

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 North Pole All the Way Expeditions, please feel free to book online booking at <https://www.adventureconsultants.com/expeditions/arctic/north-pole-all-the-way/book-now> and return your completed booking form to us with a deposit along with your climbing and polar travel résumé.

## CONTACT US

If you require more information please contact us at:

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▲ Navigate sea ice to the top of the world. Photo: Icelandic Mountain Guides



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.

