

THREE PEAKS OF GREENLAND

2019 TRIP NOTES





Three Peaks of Greenland Mt. Gunnbjörn, Dome and Cone

Expedition Notes

15 - 27 May 2019

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On this 13 day expedition, the goal is to climb and ski the three highest peaks in Greenland. Our destination is the pristine area in the centre of the Watkins Mountains, which arise from the ice-covered interior of Greenland. To get into this wilderness on the East coast of Greenland, we fly in on a privately chartered ski plane and then establish a comfortable Base Camp under the slopes of Mt. Gunnbjörn. After climbing Greenland's highest summit, Mt. Gunnbjörn, we will move our Base Camp for our climb of Cone and Dome, Greenland's 2nd and 3rd highest mountains. We then move to a final location where we will have access to both great mountaineering and skiing.



Photo Björgvin Hilmarsson

How the Expedition Operates

The expedition will begin in Reykjavík, where you will meet your guides for an initial briefing and gear check.

The next morning we fly to Akureyri and then continue on by privately chartered ski-plane to Greenland. After taking off from Akureyri, a brief stop will be made in Ísafjörður, a small fishing village in the Westfjords of Iceland, in order to fuel up.

We can either 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.



Mt Gunnbjörn in the distance. Photo Steve Moffat

Mt Gunnbjörn will be climbed in one long day from Base Camp. Gentle slopes lead to the summit ridge where skis will be left behind and the rest then climbed using ice axe and 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. After climbing Mt. Gunnbjörn, the Base Camp will be moved closer to Mt. Cone and Dome.



*Camping in the heart of the Watkins Mountains.
Photo Steve Moffat*

From this second camp, both of the summits can be climbed. From a third Base Camp location, we have plenty of possibilities for skiing and mountaineering. The expedition leader will choose suitable objectives according to the snow conditions and the interests of the group.

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

Level of Experience Required

Although not technically difficult, the ascents of the Three Peaks of Greenland are fairly strenuous and prior experience in winter travel and glacier crossing is important. The expedition is for strong skiers, who are physically and mentally prepared for some days out in a remote area where harsh weather and conditions can be expected.

A good level of fitness and the ability to work along as part of a small team is also important.

Travel

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

Equipment

Expedition members will be sent a list detailing all necessary clothing and equipment for you to bring as part of your kit. We recommend you bring your own ski touring equipment rather than relying on the limited rental options available in Reykjavik.



Towing sleds between camps. Photo Steve Moffat

As the ski-plane has limited capacity and we will move our whole camp several times, 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.

Safety & Communications

To safeguard members of the expedition we will be carrying a satellite telephone and emergency supplies to last one week. Evacuation insurance whilst on the climb 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

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

- Day 1 Arrive in Reykjavik, Iceland, or early the next morning.
- 2 Team briefing and gear checks.
- 3 Fly Reykjavik to Akureyri then from Akureyri to Greenland. Establish Base Camp.
- 4 Acclimatisation climb and ski, and/or move to High Camp, if used. Equipment preparation and skills refresher.
- 5 Ascent of Mt Gunnbjörn 3,694m (12,119ft).
- 6 Move camp closer to Dome and Cone, the second and third highest peaks in Greenland.
- 7 Ascent of Dome, 3,682m (12,080ft).
- 8 Rest day.
- 9 Ascent of Cone, 3,669m (12,037ft).
- 10-12 Ski touring in the Watkins Mountains.
- 13 Fly back to Iceland. Trip ends.



On the summit of Mt Gunnbjörn. Photo Steve Moffat

Expedition Fee

The cost of the expedition is **EUR€23,500** per person ex Reykjavik, Iceland.

The expedition fee includes:

- Adventure Consultants mountain guides
- All expedition organisational requirements
- All permits for the expedition
- Expedition food and equipment
- Flights from Reykjavik to Akureyri and return
- Privately chartered ski-plane from Akureyri to the Watkins Mountains and return
- Transport of 20kg of personal equipment luggage (and 6kg of hand luggage of limited volume)
- Tents, stoves, sleds & harness
- Emergency evacuation insurance
- Use of the expedition satellite telephone for outgoing calls

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

- International airfare to Reykjavik and return
- Personal clothing and equipment
- Personal travel insurance & trip cancellation insurance
- Personal rescue/medical evacuation costs beyond Greenland
- Airport transfers
- Hotel and personal expenses in Reykjavik

- Any additional costs due to flight delay
 - Any costs associated with leaving the expedition early
 - Excess baggage fees over 20 kg of personal luggage (and 6 kg of hand luggage of limited volume)
 - Cost of satellite telephone calls whilst on expedition
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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: BKNZ NZ22

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

We can accept your deposit payment by credit card (Visa, Mastercard and Amex) plus a card charge of 3%.

Deposit

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

Balance

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

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.

Food

Food will be of the highest standard possible, given the remoteness of the situation. Our cuisine will be varied and nourishing to ensure energy levels are maintained and the whole group will gather together in our dining tent for breakfast and evening meals. Please inform us if you have any special dietary requirements.

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 & Photographs

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

Visas

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

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.

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 climbing and outdoor experience, and the deposit for the trip.

If you require more information please contact us at;

Adventure Consultants Ltd.
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Wanaka, 9343
New Zealand

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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.