

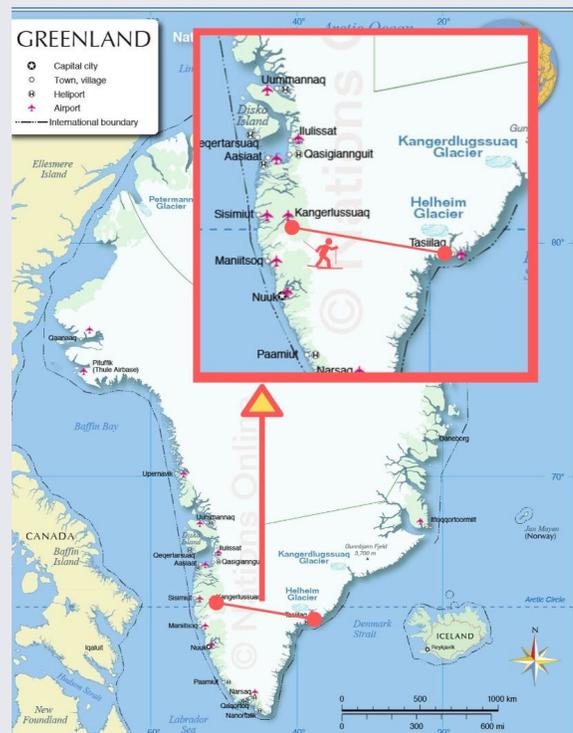
POLAREXPLORERS

GREENLAND ICECAP CROSSING (EAST TO WEST)



A Challenging Ski Expedition Crossing Greenland from east to west.

Epic and beautiful, unpredictable and wild. When it comes to classic polar expeditions Greenland rivals Antarctica in terms of challenge and beauty. As the world's largest island it is simply immense with three quarters of its area covered in snow and ice. Crossing the island by ski is no small feat. The weather is notoriously unpredictable and can change in an instant making travel difficult or impossible. The ascent from the coast to the summit, a little less than half way across our route (from east to west), will keep you working hard all day long. And the endless ocean of white that makes up the scenery for the majority of the trip can be mind numbing and disorienting. But for people with an insatiable appetite for adventure this expedition is a **MUST DO**. The incredible sense of accomplishment at the end of the crossing will stay with you forever and the beauty of Greenland will be eternally etched into your heart.



Skill level:



Your level of skill and physical conditioning must be high. You will encounter adverse conditions that will test your abilities. You'll spend 24 hours a day in some of the most extreme conditions the planet has to offer. Trip specific preparation is required.

Distance: Approximately 550 km as the crow flies.

Duration: Approximately 25-30 days

Polar Shakedown Training: Our five day Polar Shakedown Training is required for team members who have no previous polar expedition experience. Learn the basics of polar travel on one of our two annual trainings in the USA and Norway. We can also arrange private or custom trainings as needed.

Daily Itinerary

Pre-expedition: Arrive in Tasiilaq, on the East coast of Greenland. This is most commonly accessed by flight from Reykjavik, Iceland and will be where we spend the first two days of our expedition, preparing gear for the journey.

Day 1-2: Meet your team and PolarExplorers guide in Tasiilaq. Tasiilaq is a wonderful small town, and capital of the East coast of Greenland. There are no stores selling outdoor equipment so you need to come fully prepared. We will spend today reviewing expedition details, checking gear and taking care of last minute preparations.

We will spend the second day finalizing gear and packing food for the expedition before having our last meal indoors and enjoying one last shower in the comfort of our hotel before setting off.

Day 3: Leaving Tasiilaq, we will depart even smaller village of Isortoq. The boat ride there offers beautiful views of the coast and the many icebergs nearby. Weather and local festivities depending, we will stay in a local hut in the village, or may spend our first night in tents.



Day 4: Leaving Isortoq, we begin the ascent to the icecap . In the Fall, the terrain will be icy and hard going for the first several days as we steadily gain altitude. There will be significantly crevassed terrain and we will take our time maneuvering around obstacles and areas of melt water. Depending on the temperature we may experience some wet conditions.

Day 5-13 (approx) This first part of the expedition will surely challenge our resolve. As we gain altitude, icy/warmer conditions will give way to a more polar climate. The coastal mountains are quickly lost to a sea of white as the icecap stretches out in every direction. This zone will also be the most exposed to katabatic winds and we make every effort not to linger. A typical day starts with an early breakfast and breaking camp followed by roughly 8-10 hours of skiing (could be more or less depending on weather and our timing). We will stop approximately every hour for a short break to eat, drink and rejuvenate. Then it's back to skiing for the next "march". In the late afternoon we will stop skiing and establish camp. The nightly routine is to organize camp, securing it for all possible weather, then relax and rejuvenate with a hearty meal, soups and hot drinks. Each night we will communicate our position and description of the day's events to our home office so friends and family can follow our progress and share messages via the expedition blog. Socializing with the group in the evening can be a wonderful end to the day. Then it's off to bed for some much needed rest.

Day 14-18: At this point we will approach and cross over the summit of the icecap. Days will be long and every mile counts as the colder winter weather approaches. If the

weather is clear, The DYE II station will appear on the horizon well over a day before we arrive there. Upon arrival, we will explore this relic of the Cold War and gather our remaining strength for a sprint to the finish line.

Day 18-30: The first few days will have a familiar feel, but as we lose altitude the ice will once again get rough and the conditions will vary widely depending on the seasonal variations. There may be large meltwater lakes and rivers, or cold rough ice. Regardless, the obstacles increase as we get closer to the coast. Navigating the icefall will require all our remaining determination. Upon arriving on the east coast we will be picked up and driven to the town of Kangerlussuaq where we'll all enjoy long, hot showers and a well deserved cold beer or two. Here is where our expedition ends and we will return to our respective homes.

The extreme conditions of the Greenland Icecap demand that each person is well organized and able to maintain their personal health and energy reserves. This is where all of your physical training, mental preparation, and time spent acquiring the right clothing and equipment will pay off. For participants without prior polar training expedition experience a polar training course is required which will help you tremendously as you learn what to expect and how to deal with the adverse conditions. Weather in Greenland is notoriously fickle and you must be able to adapt quickly and effectively to be successful and safe.

This itinerary is highly dependent on a number of factors and it is subject to change.





Ask us for references!

We have guided hundreds of people in the polar regions. Ask us for references from your city or country and we will put you in contact with someone who has done this expedition and can give you the “inside scoop”. References can be the BEST way to learn about the expedition.

Getting there:

Tasiilaq is accessible via Kulusuk, Greenland from Reykjavik, Iceland (Air Iceland Connect). Kangerlussuaq is accessible by Air Greenland from Copenhagen several days a week. Please contact them directly for flight information (+299 34 85 85). You can learn more about these routes with Air Greenland (airgreenland.com) , Air Iceland Connect (<https://www.airicelandconnect.com>) and SAS (www.flysas.com). Trip cancellation insurance, medical evacuation insurance and search and rescue insurance are required. Contact us for assistance!

Additional information:

Please contact us for links to our expedition videos, expedition reviews, equipment checklist, dates and rates and FAQ.

Meet us!

We are always free to meet you, check your gear, or discuss your expedition via Skype or Google. Give us a shout!

WANT TO JOIN? HERE'S HOW:



- 1 Complete and return our application.**

To join one of our expeditions you'll need to complete and return our [online application](#). You can also request an application by emailing annie@polarexplorers.com.
- 2 Reserve your space with a deposit.**

A 25% deposit will reserve your space on any expedition. Contact us at annie@polarexplorers.com to request an invoice for your deposit. Deposits can be paid by wire transfer, credit card or USD check. Currency exchange fees and credit card processing fees may apply.
- 3 Review your eConfirmation Kit.**

Upon receipt of your completed application and deposit we will send you a comprehensive eConfirmation Kit that includes all the information you need to prepare for your expedition including what to expect, what to pack and how to prepare. From this point on we are always available answer any questions and to offer assistance during your preparations.
- 4 Get ready!**

All of our expeditions require varying degrees of preparations. There will be forms to complete and travel insurance to purchase. We can assist you with any of these requirements. Some of our expeditions also require physical and mental preparations or participation on our [Polar Shakedown Training](#). We are always available to talk with you about training regimens and to help you prepare as best as possible.
- 5 Let the adventure begin!**

As the expedition approaches we will be in touch on more regular basis. We will meet you at the expedition's starting location and check your kit to ensure you have everything you need. With your preparations behind you now is the time to let the adventure begin. We will be right beside you to help you make the most of the expedition!



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