



POLAREXPLORERS

FULL NORTH POLE SKI EXPEDITION



THE HARDEST EXPEDITION ON THE PLANET

A grueling ski expedition from the coast of Canada to the Geographic North Pole

For people who embark on a Full North Pole Ski Expedition the adventure is much more than a challenge. It is certainly more than a dream or a goal. The only way to accurately describe it is as a “Mission”. Like going to Mars or the moon. Indeed with ice shifting beneath your feet, limited light for the first weeks and temperatures as low as -50F you may feel like you are on another planet. And you may as well be! This is one of the most remote and extreme places on Earth. The physical, mental and logistical challenges of this expedition are monumental. Progress may be blocked by enormous and seemingly unending rubble fields, negative drift or gear failure. Fatigue from the cold and the toll of 40+ days on the go in such conditions can shatter the resolve of the most seasoned adventurer. But success can come to teams with the resilience to face each day with new energy and resolve. And reaching the North Pole by ski, from the coast of Canada will certainly be one of the most rewarding things you ever do.

Skill Level 1 2 3 4

Your level of skill and physical conditioning must be high as you may encounter adverse conditions that will test your abilities. You'll spend both days and nights in some of the most extreme conditions the planet has to offer. You will test all your limits. Trip specific preparation is required, and you must obtain the consent of the trip leader to participate

Polar Shakedown Training

This expedition requires participation in our Polar Shakedown Training. We offer two trainings, one in the USA in late January and another in April in Norway. Additionally this expedition includes mandatory training / dry run just prior to the expedition in Resolute Bay, Canada.



“By the end of the expedition I didn’t even recognize my own shadow. I had lost so much weight.”

Daily itinerary

Pre-expedition: Arrive in Resolute Bay.

Day 1-5: Meet in Resolute Bay, Nunavut, Canada. Start checking gear and reviewing expedition logistics. Final team training and shakedown trip outside of Resolute Bay.

Day 6 and onwards: Charter flight to Eureka Weather Station, then on to Ward Hunt Island or Cape Discovery. Depart Ward Hunt Island or Cape Discovery onto the pack ice. Begin skiing towards the North Pole.

The daily routine of this expedition is simple. Wake, start stove, brew water, eat breakfast, break camp, ski 4-6 marches a day, make camp, start stove, brew water, eat dinner, fix gear, go to sleep. But simple is never easy on the frozen pack ice in the beginning of March. The routine will change only slightly over the first two weeks as sunlight is gained and the ability to travel longer distances improves. The ice conditions off the Canadian coast are notoriously difficult with miles of rubble and the possibility for wide leads. As we get further away from land the ice conditions will hopefully improve, though a storm or local conditions can affect the ice dramatically.

We will plan to ski 8-10 hours a day, which means that time in camp is precious and needs to be efficient. At some point it will likely become necessary to put in longer days to reach the Pole. Temperatures at the beginning of the expedition will be the coldest. With minimal sunlight it is possible to get daily highs of -40 degrees and daily lows and additional 10 degrees colder. Wind and humidity can make this temperature much more frigid and downright uncomfortable and dangerous for both people and gear.

The exact duration of the expedition and the speed at which we must travel depends largely on the availability of aircraft to extricate the team after reaching the North Pole. If we can reach the North Pole while the Barneo Ice Camp is still open

we will have the easiest and least expensive extrication. If we cannot make it to the North Pole by the time the Barneo Ice Camp closes we will need to hire a charter aircraft at a far greater expense to the team.

Reaching the North Pole will be a monumental achievement and your emotions may be mixed. You may be numb from lack of sleep after a marathon push for the final miles or unable to fully comprehend the achievement. Your body will be ready to stop, begging you to stop, and finally you can relent. Depending on the extrication plan we will either return via Longyearbyen, Norway or via Resolute Bay, Canada.

Despite many attempts by international teams only one team has succeeded in skiing the full distance to the North Pole since 2010. This is in large part due to the unpredictable ice conditions and also teams underestimating the physical and logistical demands of the expedition.

PolarExplorers will organize and guide this expedition only with the right team. We will be very selective in our acceptance of team members, limiting the team to a handful of participants (at most) under the leadership of a highly experienced guide. Interested parties with no previous polar experience, or not enough polar experience, are encouraged to build their skills and judgment on a last degree, two degree, or three degree North Pole expedition.

North Pole to Land Expeditions – As the Arctic climate warms the ability to ski from the coast of Canada to the North Pole is increasingly limited. Expeditions skiing from the North Pole to the Canadian coast are gaining in popularity though they offer some disadvantages to the standard route. We will consider a North Pole to land expedition as an alternative to land to North Pole expeditions given certain circumstances.

“AMAZING...”



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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.

Know before you go!

The full North Pole expedition is extreme in every way. Extremely difficult, extremely expensive, and extremely likely that a team will not reach its goal. We aim to be the exception to the latter statistic. With the right team, excellent leadership and a healthy dose of good luck we feel the chances for success are high. To reach our goal each team member must be fully versed in polar travel. If you don't already have a significant expedition resume we recommend joining us on one of our annual one, two or three degree North Pole expeditions. Contact us for more details.

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.



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 application. The application can be found online at:

http://www.polarexplorers.com/images/docs/pe_application_elctronic.pdf

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 return 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!

