

# POLAREXPLORERS

## NORTH POLE LAST DEGREE SKI EXPEDITION



***Long days, arduous conditions and difficult terrain. Sound like fun? We think so!***

On this expedition each team member pulls his or her own sled weighing between 30-40 kilo (66-88 lbs.). The skiing, though not technically difficult, is very rigorous and it requires good cardio vascular endurance and muscular strength. But the pulling is not the hardest part of this expedition. That honor goes to keeping yourself warm, hydrated and energized 24 hours a day in sub zero temperatures. You must be fully self-aware and proactive to keep yourself safe, healthy, and happy. That may sound easy but it's not.

At any given moment you may feel exhilarated and accomplished or overwhelmed by difficult ice conditions. It's all in a day's work on this classic expedition that is truly a once-in-a-lifetime adventure.



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:** 111 km as the crow flies. With drift and deviations this distance could be more.

**Duration:** 9 nights on the ice. 12 nights all-in.

**Sled weight:** 30kg - 40 kg

**Polar Shakedown Training:** Our five day Polar Shakedown Training is required for team members who have no previous polar expedition experience. Choose from two dates and locations; the first in Ely, Minnesota (USA) in late January; the second in April, just prior to the expedition in Longyearbyen, Norway. Please contact us for more details.

## Daily Itinerary

**Pre-expedition:** Upon arriving in Longyearbyen, you will be met by your PolarExplorers guide at the airport. A short transfer takes you to your hotel in the beautiful mountain village of Longyearbyen. A gear check will ensure you have everything you need for the expedition or allow time to pick up items in town.

**Day 1:** Our expedition officially kicks off with an evening welcome reception followed by a group dinner. It's a great time to get to know your team mates and review the itinerary.

**Day 2:** A busy day as we ready our kits, review expedition expectations & procedures. This is the last chance to work out any kinks before we take to the ice! We will prepare all our kit for the flight and deliver it to the airport. The late afternoon and evening are your final opportunity to grab last-minute necessities in town.

**Day 3:** From Longyearbyen we will travel by charter aircraft to the eclectic "Barneo" floating Ice Camp located between 89-90 degrees North. This flight takes approximately 2.5 hours. Upon arriving at Barneo we reorganized our kit and prepare for the transfer to our starting location, usually by helicopter.



Barneo is located on the floating pack ice and its precise location varies on a daily basis. Our guides will review ice conditions and recent drift to determine the best departure point.

**Day 4-10:** For the next 8-10 days we will ski north maneuvering around open water leads and over pressure ridges. In general we will ski between seven and nine hours each day (actual length depends on weather and ice conditions and could be longer). At night we look for solid “old” ice to camp on and we cook meals in our tents. Everyone is expected to participate in all aspects of camp life including making and breaking camp, collecting snow to melt into water, helping with cooking, etc. Your family and friends will be able to follow your daily progress and share messages via the Expedition. Blog.

On a personal level, the extreme conditions of the polar environment demand that each person is well organized and able to maintain both an appropriate body temperature and adequate reserves of energy. This is where all of your physical training, mental preparation, and time spent acquiring the best clothing and equipment will pay off.

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

**The North Pole:** Upon reaching the North Pole, our extended celebration begins. Standing at the top of the world, where everything on Earth lies south of your location, we will celebrate our accomplishment. Don't forget your banners, flags and signs for our photo session. You'll also have the opportunity to call home to a family member or friend. Weather depending, we will either spend the night at the North Pole or get picked up that same day before returning to Barneo and then onto Longyearbyen.

**Day 13:** Back in Longyearbyen you'll have the opportunity to enjoy hot showers, fine cuisine, access to phones and internet, and time to meander through town. A farewell dinner and a comfortable bed will top off the day.

**Day 14:** The expedition officially ends after breakfast but some people may opt to leave on the pre-dawn flight to Oslo (to make same-day international connections). If you have time to stay in town an extra day or two we can assist you in booking wonderful activities that will maximize your time in the Arctic.





### Ask us for references!

We have guided hundreds of people to the North Pole. 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:

SAS and Norwegian are the only commercial airlines flying to/from Longyearbyen. Their flight schedules are quite limited. Connections are made through Oslo, Norway. Travel in the polar regions requires flexibility. Delays are often the rule rather than the exception. We recommend that you get the most flexible tickets that allow for changes. Trip cancellation insurance and medical evacuation 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](mailto: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](mailto: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!



Connect with us!



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