



5 days dog sledge safari

Welcome to an unforgettable adventure in a unique wilderness.

Each of you will drive your own dog team with 5-6 dogs as we start the trip from our Wilderness Centre. Before leaving, you will have an introduction how to handle the dog sledge. Breathtaking nature awaits us when we go southward through the valleys of Spitsbergen, crossing glaciers and fjords. We spend some of the nights in tent.

Program:

Before heading off with the dogs, we will plan the trip and pack the equipment together. We will also teach you how to handle the dog sledge. The plan can be changed a bit if the weather conditions say so, but we will then with the guest, plan other alternatives of the routes.

1. Day

We will come and pick up the guests at their accommodation at 12:00 and drive them to our starting point. After the instructions and packing we head off with the dog sledges and drive about 30 kilometres through beautiful valleys before the camp is set up in Reindalen, about 45 kilometres from Longyearbyen. This valley has its name after the Svalbard reindeer that we have plenty in numbers. When arriving to the camp, we will put the dogs on chains, feed them and put up the tent, before we can relax and talk about the day and have a good sleep, so we are ready for a new day. The night will be spent in a double cotton tent on reindeer skins.

2. Day

From Reindalen we head off to Van Mijen fjorden and to our cabin in Torellbukta. Torellbukta is about 70 kilometres from Longyearbyen, and from Reindalen about 25 kilometres.. At this time of year the fjord is covered by ice, so when we cross it, it is good possibilities to see seals and other wild animals. Most of the day will be on the dog sledge, but we will also stop up sometimes so we can take a look at the beautiful surroundings. The two next nights will be in Torellbukta at our cabin.

3. Day

This morning we will relax and eat a good breakfast before we leave with the dogs to the beautiful Paula glacier in Rhindarsbukta, the highlight of the trip. From the cabin to the glacier it is about 15-20 kilometres. We will use the day around in Rhindarsbukta and eat our lunch under the majestic glacier. In the afternoon/evening we head back to the cabin.

4. Day

After breakfast we will start to pack up all of the equipment and start our way back to Longyearbyen. The trip goes over Van Mijen fjorden, and back to Reindalen. Normally we take another route back, so we take the route through the valley of Semmeldalen. From this valley we come to Colesdalen on the west side of Longyearbyen. Here the last night will be spent in the tent.

5. Day

The last day of the trip, goes through Colesdalen to Todalen, before we enter back to Adventdalen where our dog kennel is and Longyearbyen. This day we will drive about 20 kilometres. All of the guests will have time to say good bye to their dog teams and the guide that have followed you for 5 days in the beautiful nature. You are also welcomed to help the guide to put the dogs back in the kennel and say hello to the rest of the dogs. If we are lucky we also have puppies. ☺

Each participant is equal on the trip, so everybody has to help to plan routes, cooking, help out with the camps and handle the dogs.



Requirements:

Earlier experience is not required; the dogs know their job and are trained.

You need a normal physical condition because you have to stay behind on the sledge for a couple of hours every day.

Equipment:

The participants need to bring some of the equipment themselves. Svalbard is situated in the high Arctic, though the climate is affected by the Gulf Stream along the west coast of Spitsbergen. The average winter temperature on the west coast is around -12° C. The average summer temperature is about 6° C. Weather conditions can change very quickly, from breeze to storm, blue sky to thick fog, from -30° C. to 0° C.

It is important to note that our tour leaders are experienced and have the necessary knowledge of the conditions on Svalbard. They are responsible for your safety. Tour leaders are armed and carry additional necessary equipment such as emergency beacons, thunderflashes, first aid kit, survival kit, etc. We recommend that our guests carry extra items of clothing in their backpacks. Any tour is subject to the vagaries of the weather. In the interest of the safety of our clients, we reserve the right to make any changes in the itinerary of our tours, though without any price alteration. Following, you find practical information what to wear:

- Winter clothing for extreme conditions, down jacket recommended
- Wind proof jacket/trousers
- Thick woolen sweater
- Woolen underwear
- 2 pairs woolen socks and 2 pairs woolen gloves
- Wind proof gloves
- Scarf, thick and warm head wear, face mask
- Winter boots and shoes
- Sleeping bag for extrem conditions (for rental)
- Sleeping pad (for rental)
- Thermos flask in steel
- Small rucksack
- Camera and film
- Sun glasses
- Snow goggles
- Sun lotion
- Binocular

We have sleeping bags and sleeping pad available for rent NOK 300,-

We have to remember that we are in the Arctic. The weather can change quickly, everything from – 30 degrees to 0 degrees in a very short time.



Other information:

All the meals are included in the 5 days trip, made on or own kitchen in Longyearbyen. The transport from/to accommodation in Longyearbyen is also included. Sizes of the group we bring on this trip are 4 guests. The flight to/from Svalbard, accommodation/food before and after the trip is not included in the price. We can help you with accommodation in Longyearbyen or you can live in our cabin close to the dog kennel outside Longyearbyen for NOK 200, - per night.

Price:

NOK 14 900, - (The flight to/from Svalbard and accommodation in Longyearbyen is not included in the price)
We will come and pick up the guests at 12:00 the departure date.

Departure dates:

14.03.2011 – 18.03.2011

21.03.2011 – 25.03.2011

04.04.2011 – 08.04.2011

11.04.2011 – 15.04.2011

Alteration of program:

We will complete the arranged program, but reserve the right to make any necessary changes as conditions require; these changes will not effect the price of the trip. Alterations to plans may be necessary on account of adverse weather conditions. The safety of participants is given priority at all times.

Responsibility:

Participants themselves must decide whether they are, or are not, mentally and physically suited for the demands expected of them on whatever programme they join. Age must be given when making a reservation. A participant is duty-bound to follow instructions given by the leader of the tour. Failure to comply eliminates any claim for compensation. We can not be held economically liable for accidents or injury. Liability is also disclaimed by the company for delays or extra costs incurred outside our control. The price of a set programme can be changed on account of unexpected increases in transport costs, or other outside services contracted by us. The company reserves the right to cancel programmes at any time up until date of departure, whereby a participant is entitled only to a refund of the sum already paid. On tours that include overnight stay, one or more, every individual participant have to have their private travel insurance.

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