

Ski the Last Degree

Journey to the North Pole



Embark on the ultimate journey to the top of the world!

Follow in the footsteps of the great Polar explorers on a journey to the northernmost reaches of the earth, the geographic North Pole.

The constantly shifting ice cap of the Arctic Ocean makes the North Pole one of the least accessible and most hazardous landmarks on our planet. Since the disputed conquest by US Navy engineer Robert Peary in April 1909, and the first consistent and acknowledged attainment of the Pole by Norwegian Explorer Roald Amundsen in May 1926, man-hauled expeditions to the top of the world, the Geographic North Pole, remain amongst the most difficult of human challenges.

Annually operated drifting stations are established for only a few weeks each year allowing attempts to conquer the vast frozen tundra. Studies now predict that the North Pole may well become ice free before the end of the century, with some time scales suggesting as soon as 2030.

This is your chance to take part in an unsupported, unassisted expedition to the North Pole. For up to 10 days you will haul sleds weighing in excess of 150lbs and expend the same amount of energy required to complete 3 marathons a day, whilst experiencing temperatures as low as -40 degrees Celsius (and wind chill!)

The journey to the North Pole is not for the faint of heart – it requires a high degree of physical fitness, not to mention patience. The Arctic conditions are extremely tough and difficult to predict. Teamwork is paramount, and you will be asked to engage in all aspects of the expedition. But the journey is also hugely rewarding, and all the more satisfying for its extreme challenge. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to set foot where so few have before.

Your Financial Protection

All monies paid by you for the air holiday package shown [or flights if appropriate] are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 3145.

For more information see our booking terms and conditions.

Outline Itinerary

NB. This itinerary is provided as a guide. Expeditions to extreme environments such as the Polar regions are inherently unpredictable. How long you spend on the ice, indeed whether you ultimately make it to your goal, is at the mercy of weather events out of our control. You will have to be very flexible in how you approach the expedition.



Day 1 – arrival day

Depart London Heathrow for Spitsbergen on SAS, flying via Oslo and Tromsø.

Arrive in Longyearbyen the same evening and transfer to the Spitsbergen Guesthouse, or similar, for two nights. In the afternoon, double check all equipment, including skis and warm weather clothing for the first training day on the morrow.

Dinner at the celebrated Kroa Restaurant. O/night guest house. Single rooms are available but must be reserved well in advance.

Day 2 – training day

After breakfast, fit skis, take packed lunch in day packs and ski to training area – approx 1.5hrs.

Tents and cookers for training will be brought by guides in sledges. Complete tent and cooker practice, and ski practice (you will have participated in a full training weekend in the UK before departing, so today's training will be more of a recap). Return to guest house, prepare sledges for training or icecamp Barneo on the morrow.

De-brief & question in cafeteria. Dinner in town. O/night guest house.

Day 3 – 2nd training day or fly to Barneo Russian Ice Camp

Second training day with sledges today. Or, should the flight weather and/or ice conditions at the Pole dictate, we could instead schedule an earlier flight to icecamp Barneo.

If we fly to icecamp Barneo this day, then sledge training will be out of icecamp Barneo with a night at the famous Russian scientific research station.

Day 4 – training day or transit to Barneo Russian Ice Camp and start the Polar Challenge

Fly to icecamp Barneo, prepare sledges for helicopter and load helicopter. Helicopter will drop the team approx 1 degree from the North Pole. Location of the



drop will depend on ice drift, open areas of water (leads) in the area, and the climate. Alternatively, we may start from icecamp Barneo, depending on the ice conditions.



Start skiing and dragging the sledges north. The two main guides will each look after the one group, although for reasons of safety and the sharing of knowledge about the ice conditions both guides will discuss the routes and tactics for the day.

This evening, set up the first ice camp on the frozen ice.

Days 5 - 12 – the Polar expedition

Your challenge begins today – you'll ski and sledge to the North Pole, completing around eight hours ice travel per day plus approx three hours to set up camp and melt snow for nighttime eating and drinking routines. Your 'leisure' hours will be taken up with preparation for the next days' walk north – no rest for the wicked!

On reaching the North Pole there will be adequate time for celebration photos. We shall erect the tents and wait for the helicopter to pick up the group, return them to Icecamp Barneo and possibly an immediate flight on the Antonov 74 back to Longtearbyen, Spitsbergen – weather depending.

Our post-expedition hotel will be either the Spitsbergen Hotel or the Raddison Blu. A special celebratory dinner will be organised in a good local restaurant or at the hotel.



Day 13 – contingency day

This day may be used for extra time on the ice. e.g in the event of negative drift, late start to the programme, etc. Should we be in Spitsbergen this day, then there are a great variety of activities

available to book (subject to availability), such as dog sledding, skiddoo hire, museum visit. Have a look at our [Arctic Adventure](#) pages for ideas.



Day 14 – contingency day/ Fly to the UK arriving late afternoon

North Pole expeditions with Gane and Marshall

At Gane and Marshall we have years of experience in organising expeditions into remote and challenging environments, Polar and otherwise. We have organised holidays and expeditions into the Arctic region since 2010. We are the organisers of the 2015 [headnorth Expedition](#).

Our North Pole expeditions are organised and led by leading polar explorer **Alan Chambers MBE**. Alan is a former Royal Marine who has successfully completed numerous sub-zero projects, from North Norway, Greenland and the Canadian High Arctic to the world's first winter ski crossing of Iceland. Alan planned and led the first successful British unassisted walk to the Geographical North Pole from the Canadian coastline (1,000km miles). Alan has since returned to the North Pole to lead 12 further diverse teams to the top of the planet and helped raise over £5m for charities in the process.

Jeremy Gane, our director, oversees all of our North Pole expeditions from start to finish. Jeremy first skied to the North Pole in 2010, and since then has helped set up North Pole expeditions for numerous groups, both through Gane and Marshall and our partner Charity Challenge.

2016 costs: We will be running a North Pole Last Degree expedition between 31 March and 13 April 2016. The expedition will be guided by highly respected polar explorer Alan Chambers MBE, and costs **£29,500**. This figure includes: pre-expedition training and help from Alan, return flights from Svalbard to Barneo ice station and on the ice cap we include all equipment (except personal clothing) and all meals. Not included are: international flights, accommodations and meals in Oslo and Longyearbyen, personal clothing, medical and evacuation insurance. All items that are not included in the basic cost including your personal polar clothing can be booked and provided for you by Gane and Marshall.

For more information about our North Pole expeditions, or to enquire about joining our 2016 departure, please contact jeremy@ganeandmarshall.com.