

# Arctic Coast Dog Sled Expedition

## 8 days in Arctic Norway

On a longitude east of Istanbul and further north than most of Siberia and Alaska, the Varanger Peninsula reaches out into the Arctic Ocean. This remote land of fjords, rugged coastlines, mountain plateaus and valleys is the only part of mainland Europe with true arctic status.

On this guided expedition you will drive your own dog team across the tundra and mountains of Varanger Peninsula, to the shores of the Arctic Ocean, and back again. For some 200km this adventure offers a great variety of both natural and local arctic environments. The northern latitude and wide horizons also give great opportunities to view the northern lights.

### Day 1

Arrive Vadsø airport and transfer to accommodation – around 5 to 20 minutes depending on choice.

### Day 2

After breakfast and a short car trip we reach the husky farm where the day will be used for preparations and basic training: how to behave in arctic winter conditions, general safety precautions, getting to know the dogs, how to mush and take care of a dog team. We use different tracks in the area around the husky farm for practical training. The day at the husky farm ends by preparing equipment and sledges for the journey.

### Day 3

We leave the husky farm early in the morning, climbing the hills clad with mountain birch, leading to the mountain plateau of Varanger Peninsula. After an hour or so we reach the vast arctic tundra - the big sky country of reindeers and wolverines. If conditions are good we will cross most of the plateau before we stop for the night at mountain cottage at the Lake Ordo.

### Day 4

We finish the crossing of the open tundra and enter sheltered valleys heading for the coast. Midway we follow a mountain track that offers great views (weather permitting) over the dramatic and barren landscape of the northern peninsula. We then descend to a valley that cuts its way through the mountains to the sea. By evening we arrive at the former fishing village Syltefjord where we stay in a cottage/house by the fjord.



### Day 5

The fifth day Syltefjord is our base camp. You can rest and/or explore the village and its dramatic surroundings on foot or snowshoes. Alternatively you can participate on a sled dog round trip in the mountains north of the village with the Arctic Ocean on three sides.

### Days 6 and 7

We start our return to the husky farm. In general we follow the same route as we came on. Still the changes in weather, light and direction of view can make this a totally new and different experience. Back at the husky farm we finish the expedition with sauna, dinner and a special award to the participants for completing the Arctic Coast Dogsled Adventure .

### Day 8

Breakfast and transfer to Vadsø airport.

**Cost 2010: £2525 per person**

**Minimum: 2 persons, maximum 4 persons**

**Included:** All transfers. Dinner day 1, breakfast day 8, full board (breakfast, lunch and dinner) days 2 to 7. Accommodation in double rooms in lodges, wilderness cabins and fishermen's cottages. Appropriate winter clothing and gear including snowshoes, one dog team and sledge per client, English speaking guide.

**Not included:** International and internal flights, alcoholic drinks, travel insurance.

**2010 departures:** upon request from mid February until late April.

**Client requirements:** Suitable for those who have been dog sledding before and would like a challenge!

**Note:** The guides are raised in the region and have the necessary skills and respect for the Arctic in their blood. They have the utmost concern for the safety of our clients. A main safety precaution is to always act according to the conditions. They will try to stick to the outlined itinerary but reserve the right to alter the plans due to unexpected conditions, weather and circumstances beyond our control. In the end each day will be planned according to present situation and in co-operation with and respect to all the participants – including the huskies...