

The challenge of a lifetime...
...for Merlin MS Centre

Lapland

The Husky Trail

Sled



A fantastic journey through the Arctic wilderness...

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**Merlin
MS Centre**

UK Charity Reg No: 1093691

Drive your own team of spirited Huskies 260km across the frozen wilderness of the Arctic...

Your sledding challenge...

...is to drive your sled through rolling highlands and deep forest, into the heart of Lapland on an experience you will never forget. Sledding from northern Norway and crossing the Swedish border, you will journey through wild and untouched nature, and then finally arrive at the world famous Ice Hotel in Jukkasjärvi.

Let's go mushing!

Your itinerary...

Day 1 Arrive Tromso

We depart the UK for our flight to Tromso, Norway. Upon arrival, we are welcomed by our local guides and then transfer to the Dog Sled Centre where we will meet lots of high-spirited Huskies - our companions for the next 6 days. The guides will then give a briefing and go through the specialist equipment and also show us how to drive the dogs and set up camp. We will then take a short trip of about 10-15km to practice our new dog-sledding and camp building skills before enjoying our evening meal and spending the night in a traditional lavvu.

Day 2

After an early breakfast in the Sami tent (lavvu) we load our dogs, sleds and equipment into trailers and then board our bus for a scenic 2 hour drive to Signal Valley which is the starting point for our Arctic adventure. Our goal for today is to reach the Tri-Nations Border (between Norway, Sweden and Finland) sledding through the mountains and forest with our faithful companions. Tonight we sleep in our tents under the stars after enjoying our evening meal at camp.

Distance sledded – approx. 30km

Day 3

Following breakfast and after harnessing our dogs and breaking camp we set off and head further along the Swedish side of the border. We start with a steep uphill climb and ascend 800m to enjoy the incredible views. We maintain this altitude for the morning and then later in the afternoon there will be some deep descents (try your best to keep your balance!) as we drive down to Keinovopio. We will then set up camp before our evening meal and then we can relax for the evening.

Distance sledded – approx. 55km

Day 4

After our morning duties of making breakfast, harnessing our dogs and breaking camp, we push on with our dog sledding challenge. Today, we head deep into the mountains of Sweden - home of the Sami people. We may even see the occasional reindeer on the long push to our next camp at Rostojavri, which is known locally as the Fish Camp. Here, we will be treated to an overnight stay in a log cabin!

Distance sledded – approx. 45km





Day 5

After breaking camp we set off for yet another very exciting day. We head back down the mountains to the tree-line and into the depths of the Swedish forest. This is one of the longer days on the sled and we mostly follow snow mobile tracks, which are challenging and bumpy but guarantee so much fun as they twist and turn through the forest. This is our opportunity to put our expert mushing skills to the test. Upon arrival in camp, we feed our dogs and erect our tents, before sharing our experiences around the camp fire.

Distance sledged – approx. 55km

Day 6

Today is the longest day of the challenge. We sled through more dramatic forest and then down onto the lakes and rivers that guide us to the famous Ice Hotel in Jukkasjarvi. Upon arrival extra guides will meet us to give us a night off from our dog duties and we will then be given a tour of the mystical Ice Hotel before being shown to our cabins where we will stay tonight. We can then relax and enjoy our celebratory meal in the Ice Hotel restaurant before spending the rest of the evening sharing our stories and experience at the Ice Bar.

Distance sledged – approx. 75km

Day 7

After a big breakfast at the Ice Hotel, and feeding our trusted companions for the last time, we take a 5 hour transfer back to Tromso, stopping along the way for a scenic lunch break. We will arrive in Tromso late afternoon with time enough to say goodbye to our dogs before heading to our hotel where we will stay tonight. After a rest and a freshen up we can then enjoy the evening celebrating our achievements and exploring Tromso itself before returning to our hotel for the night.

Day 8 Depart Tromso

Following breakfast at our hotel, we have some free time to look around Tromso before transferring to the airport. Here we will wave goodbye to our guides and then board our flight to return back to the UK after our exciting Lapland challenge.

(Please note this is a complex itinerary and due to the unpredictability of extreme weather and environment conditions, the route and itinerary are subject to change without notice.)



Your questions answered...

Is this trip for me?

ABSOLUTELY! This event is suitable for people of all ages (minimum 18 years old). The one thing everyone will have in common is a great sense of adventure and the desire to help the Merlin MS Centre. Most people will sign up as individuals meaning you will all be in the same situation!

How fit do I need to be?

This event has been designed to be challenging, but achievable by anyone as long as you train beforehand. Remember, you are going to be on your feet for the majority of the day, as well as taking care of campsite duties – the fitter you are the more you will enjoy this challenge. Dog sledding can be arduous so a good cardio-vascular fitness is recommended. Training tips can be found on our website to point you in the right direction and why not join one of our challenge training weekends - it's a great opportunity for you to meet our team and fellow participants!

Where will we stay?

Upon arrival in Tromso, we will stay in Lavvo's at the Dog Sled Centre – mixed accommodation. The Lavvo's will have a roaring fire to keep us warm and we will sleep on natural reindeer skins to keep us extra comfy. Whilst on trail, we will be mainly staying in tents which are provided (on some occasions we may stay in a log cabin) – all participants are expected to erect their own tents and cook for themselves using the stoves and equipment provided. On the last night of our challenge we will stay in a hotel in Tromso (twin-share).

Do I need specialist kit?

We will supply you with a kit list of what to take once you register for the challenge. As you can appreciate, the kit required for this expedition needs to be quite comprehensive due to the environment, therefore you will be provided with much of the required kit including a parka, insulated bib trousers, a pair of snow boots and a sleeping bag suitable to withstand temperatures of lower than -20°C. Further details will be sent when you register for the challenge. If you do have any queries regarding the kit needed for this challenge, please don't hesitate to contact our team on 01244 676 454.

Do I have to carry my own luggage?

No. Your kit whilst on trail will be kept in your sled and any other items can be left at the Dog Sled Centre ready for your return to Tromso. You will need to bring a waterproof bag to take items on trail with you.

Food matters...

Due to the extreme conditions of the Arctic, all food is cooked using boiled water. Each tent (two musher's per tent) will be issued with a food box for the expedition – this will contain items for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Dinners are typically 'Dry Tech' (just add boiling water) foods which are tasty and very nutritional. You and your tenting partner will be required to cook for yourselves upon arrival at each camp. We cater for all dietary requirements so long as we know in advance – just fill in the appropriate section on your registration form enclosed.

What's included?

Return flights from London to Tromso, all transfers, all accommodation, all meals on trail (except celebratory meal), professional English speaking dog sledding guides throughout the expedition, tents and essential kit items (snow boots, parka, trousers, sleeping bag, etc.), Global Adventure Challenges leader from the UK and a full, comprehensive first aid kit.

What's not included?

Personal airport taxes and fuel surcharge – these are approximately £100 and payable 6 weeks prior to departure, personal travel insurance – it is strongly advised that this is taken out through Global Adventure Challenges, celebratory meal, gratuities, alcoholic drinks and your personal kit (warm clothes, etc).

Can I stay in Norway after the challenge?

All extensions are strictly limited, subject to availability and are given on a first come first served basis. Those wanting to request an extension should contact Global Adventure Challenges at customer.care@globaladventurechallenges.com as soon as possible. There is a minimum £60 + VAT charge for having your return airline ticket extended. Please note, the final decision always rests with the airline.

What sort of back-up is there?

There will be a strong support team with a professional Global Adventure Challenges leader from the UK, as well as local dog sledding guides. Full, comprehensive first aid kits will be taken and a satellite telephone will be used to ensure your safety and security at all times.

What happens if I get tired?

There will be regular rest stops for drinks and snacks. A guide will be bringing up the rear of the group ensuring no-one is left behind – remember though, this is not a race!

How do I go about raising the sponsorship?

Once you have signed up you will receive a fundraising pack from the Merlin MS Centre in order to make your fundraising as easy as possible. You will also receive a few tips and ideas from Global Adventure Challenges to help you on your way.

I'm interested... what do I do now?

Places are limited and go on a first come, first served basis so try to register as soon as you can! You can register online at www.globaladventurechallenges.com or fill in the enclosed registration form and post it back to Global Adventure Challenges along with the registration fee - all payment options and costs are explained on the enclosed information sheet. Once your registration is received, Global Adventure Challenges will write to you sending you further information on what to expect from this awesome adventure! The Merlin MS Centre will also be in contact to discuss your fundraising.

Have you got what it takes to ride The Husky Trail?



www.globaladventurechallenges.com

Register online today!

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