



Canada

Yukon, The Great Musher Expedition

13 days, 10 sleddogs days and 1 day of field exploration snowshoeing

Guided expedition: sleddog

Level: moderate

We invite you to travel the vast boreal forest of Yukon, on sleddog. This territory with an area like the France is hosting only 30 miles inhabitants. This last Canadian border before Alaska deploys a wild nature without limits with an incredible scenery; through its valleys, its Alpine mountains plateau, its coastal mountains cover in snow and its crystalline lake of ice. Once this territory has drawn a thousand of pioneers pushed by the fever of "The Gold Rush". Today on this territory is now the green Gold attracting people- of the generous and intact nature, and of White Gold - of snow and silence. An expedition that promises you a memorable experience of a lifetime.

ITINEARY

Day 01: Arrival Whitehorse / Transfer Shinevalley

Arrival in Whitehorse in late evening. Your guide Pierre and Veronique we'll welcome you to the airport. We'll drive up to the base camp (30 Km) where your little log cabin will be waiting for you for a good night rest.

Day 02: Whitehorse

In the morning, after a hot shower, we'll go for a visit of the town of Whitehorse, the McBride Museum where you can learn about the gold rush, the lifestyle in the old days and the wildlife in Yukon. You'll have some time for some souvenir gift, postcard and last minute shopping



for others personal items. After lunch, we'll drive back to the base camp where you will be introduced to your dogs. A first theoretical initiation and explanation on dog mushing will be given. You'll learn how to put harness on dogs so you are all ready for the expedition of the next couple days. At the end of the day, back to your cabin to share a good meal and a cozy fire. At night, you will be taught how to care and feed your own dog team.

-Lodging: wooden cabin, double occupancy



SHINEVALLEY BASE CAMP

Day 03: Jackson Lake

After a nice breakfast, this day is going to lead you in the area of Jackson Lake, a ride of approximately 30 to 40 km. Half way we'll stop for a camp fire and a barbecue right into the nature. Then we'll head up back to the base camp for your second night.

-Lodging: wooden cabin, double occupancy

Day 04: Bonneville Lake

For today itinerary, we will take the trail to Bonneville Lake, 30 km of trail in the wild tundra. After a small ascension will share a nice camp fire and lunch over a panoramic overview on Fish Lake. Back to the coziness of the cabin for a good meal and some rest.

-Lodging: wooden cabin, double occupancy

Day 05: Mount McIntyre

A sleddog trip of 40 km in direction of Mount McIntyre is waiting for you today. On this trail, we'll see some amazing scenery of Whitehorse and its surrounding. We'll also be observing some ptarmigans. We'll sleep for the last night at the base camp getting all the last details ready for the long expedition.

-Lodging: wooden cabin, double occupancy

Day 06: Coal Lake

This morning, departure for an expedition of 6 days and 5 nights. Our trail today, a long stretch of 40km, leading us to Coal Lake. On the way, we'll travel mostly a long frozen lake, Fish Lake. From now on, we'll keep an eye open around, we might see some moose, caribous, wolfs and ptarmigans on the way. Tonight, we'll be sleeping in a heated wall tent. At the shore of the lake. To the program in evening, initiation to ice fishing. At dawn, in the black sky, you'll discover all the beauty of the north sky, shining stars and majestic dances of northern lights, movement of color incredible. If you wish you can also sleep outside under the star all wrap up in the warm of your sleeping bag without problem!!

-Lodging: Wall tent or under the star.

Day 07: Watson Trail

In the morning, after wrapping up the camp (tent, wood stove and other materials) and harnessing the dog team will head up on the Watson trail, a whole new valley. On this trail, we'll travel mostly in the forest with some rivers and streams crossing. A lunch break near the fire will give us the opportunity to observe animal's tracks moose, lynxes, coyotes and wolfs. Tonight, we'll set up camp in the forest

-Lodging: Wall tent or under the comfort of your own tree



KUSUWA

Day 08 : Big Ben

Departure for the trapper's cabin, 35 km of forest on the end of the Watson Trail. In the evening, Pierre your guide will explain about the traditional trapping and its life style. Visit of the trapper in the cabin. We'll share good meal with a beautiful view on the mountains and the lake.

-Lodging: Wall tent or under a tree



BIG BEN CABIN

Day 09: Rose Lake

Your sled is now pointing out in the direction of the Alaskan coastal mountains. A forest path with some mountains summit going up to 2500m offer you a wonderful scenery, then we'll cross some open meadows. Possibility to observe some free ranging horse horde. Camp in Rose Lake, a little hidden paradise right by the coastal mountains Care of the dog before the rest day.

-Lodging: wall tent or under the stars

Day 10: Rose Lake / Valley

For the rest day well deserved by our dogs, we'll go for a snowshoeing expedition in the mountains surrounding. At the summit a panoramic view of the Lake and the valleys that offers Rose Lake. The lake is as well the perfect place to enjoy ice fishing. Tonight back to the wall tent for a good meal and warm us up before the camp fire with marshmallows outside.

-Lodging: wall tent or under the stars!

Day 11: Mud lake

Wrapping up of the camp and getting everybody ready we're heading to Mud Lake area. This trail is crossing an alpine meadow up to 1600m of altitude. This area is well known for the wild life activity particularity of the good grazing and the shelter offer by the meadow. The camp will be set up in view of Ibex Mountains, a summit of 2500m high. This camp is ideal for an open view on the sky, time to contemplate the stars and the northern lights

-Lodging : Wall tent or under the star



Day 12: Fish Lake

Today, we'll sled toward the base camp for this last day. A 35km trail lead us back to Fish Lake to cross one last time the frozen lake. We should be back around 16hrs, it's time to say good bye to our fellow travelers for the last 10 days and after a snack will go down in town for a hot shower, last minute errands and share all together a good feast at the restaurant. You'll past the last night in the Yukon at Shinevalley in your cabins.

-Lodging: wooden cabins, double occupancy



COUSTEAU ET KLUANE head dogs

Day 13: Whitehorse / Home

Breakfast and transfer to the airport for your flight home

**** Please Note that Itinerary can be subject to change due to weather and trails conditions.



DATES AND PRICES

Departure 2016-2017:

From	To	Price/Pers	Departure assured
03/12/2016	15/12/2016	3594\$cdn + 5% tax	Available
23/12/2016	04/01/2017	3594\$cdn + 5% tax	Available
14/01/2017	26/01/2017	3594\$cdn + 5% tax	Available
04/03/2017	16/03/2017	3594\$cdn + 5% tax	Full

Number of participants: 2 - 4

The prices include:

- The lodging in wooden cabins and wall tent
- All meals except day 2 lunch and day 12 dinner
- Winter Artic Equipment (parka, snow pants, boots, mitts and sleeping bag all -40 C)
- Transfer while in Yukon
- Emergency sat phone
- Expertise of an experience guide Pierre Fournier and Veronique Boileau

Additional Costs:

- The lunch day 2 and dinner day 12
- Personal expenses and alcoholic beverage
- gratuity

*** A deposit of 30 % is needed to reserve a departure and the balance 1 month before departure. We accepted e-transfer, Bank transfer and Western Union.

MORE INFORMATIONS...

LEVEL: moderate, good physical conditions

This expedition is open to everyone, no experience is required. The package includes an introduction class and initiation is given by your guide before your first sleddog ride on the field. The trip still required a good physical condition as we're on sled 5 to 6 hrs. a day and you do have the control of your own dog team. You might have to walk, and run with the dog in some more step terrain in cold climate condition, so to fully enjoy your trip come in the best of your shape. Youths more than 12 years old are more than welcome!!

HEAD GUIDE:

Pierre Fournier, Canadian French Professional Musher, was born in Quebec and came in 1990 in Yukon to realize his childhood dream, settling down in “The Vast Canadian North” right in the wilderness. The past 10 years, each winter he’s organizing different travel in collaboration with agency from all part of Europe, especially in France. Pierre is the perfect person to guide you through this vast wild country safely and will share with grand enthusiasm all his knowledge of dogsledding and what he calls “The Yukon lifestyle”.



ACCOMODATION:

6 nights to the SHINEVALLEY base camp, 6 nights in a wall tent heated by a woodstove

SHINEVALLEY will be your base camp for the first few nights. You’ll appreciate after a day outside, the coziness to be sitting next to a warm fire. A hot tea, the crackling of the fire, the soft light of candle, the sunset leading to an open sky with stars. Located near Fish Lake in the highest plateau around Whitehorse. There’s no electricity or running water but we do have solar panel to accommodate our needs. A peaceful place full of silence and dogs howling to wolfs.

Position: 60°39'0.32"N, 135°14'8.69"W à 1120 meters



TRAVELLING

From the beginning of the travel, you’ll learn to take care of your dogs. You’ll be able to harness them and place them on the line just like a real musher! Morning and night you’re more than welcome to help out with the feeding of the pack. As well common task will be distributed between guests for a real Yukon experience, helping out getting wood inside, lighting up fire, getting water from the lake Every day the trail between 35 km to 40 km will be split in half with a lunch break with a fire light up from spruce branches around to cook a little barbecue and as well with some stops for taking pictures, a cup of tea, looking at wild life or tracks or simply enjoy the scenery.



ALIMENTATION:

Meals:

Breakfast: omelet, bacon, eggs, pancakes, maple syrup, bread, yogurt, cereals, cheese, jams, fruits, milk, juice, tea and coffee, chocolate...

Lunch: Lunch meat, barbecue, bread, cheese, butter, dried fruits, cookies, juice, coffee, tea, cook on camp fire.

Dinner: salad, soup, fish, pasta, chicken, sausage, beef, fondue, vegetables, rice, dessert,
Coffee, tea.

*** Please preview to departure communicate any preferences or allergy concerning the menu, so we can set up a specific menu adapted to you needSTO GET READY BEFORE LEAVING WHAT TO BRING...

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:

- Base layer: It's your first isolation, technical fibers like Polar Tec, Merino wool, Icebreaker are really efficient to keep your body warm, out of moisture and dry fast. They have to be comfortable and not too tight so blood is free to circulate. (2 top and bottom)
- Second layer: Warm wool sweater, thick fleece, even down sweater or any thin down coat work good (2 for the top and 1 bottom)
- Third layer: A warm coat, like a ski coat or high altitude jacket and a ski pants, bring your own for changing layer and for town****
- 6 to 10 pairs of warm thick socks, they don't take so much room but it is so important to keep your feet warm and dry, mostly at night. I'll suggest some warm socks in wool like smart wool merino... you can always shop in Yukon if you're not sure and can't find the right items
- 1 pair of warm boots for around the camp or after the dogsledding
- 1 pair of warm mitts or gloves, the skiing one or alpinist kind ****
- 1 pair of under glove in thin merino wool or synthetic
- 1 warm hat
- 1 polar neck warmer or a balaclava
- Slippers for in the cabin
- Ski goggles
- Sunglasses
- Hand and feet warmer (x20-30) can be purchased in Whitehorse for a reasonable price
- Sleeping bag (-40c) ****
- Head lamp (spare batteries)
- Sleeping pad/mattress
- Thermos for tea and coffee
- A pocket knife

**** An Artic Package can be rented in Whitehorse including a winter parka, a winter pants, warm mitts, -40 winter boots, -40 sleeping bag.

PERSONAL CARE

- Personal first aid kit
- Sun protection (face and lips)
- Hydrating cream and lip balm
- Wet ones for a little clean up without shower

USEFUL EQUIPMENT

- A little note book
- Camera with spare batteries, in cold weather they drain fast and no access to electricity for 6 days
- Binocular for wildlife observation
- Hot water bottle for the night

LUGGAGES CARRYING

You will need a day back pack not too big to keep all your personal items accessible easily in the day on your sled. If you have a good Duffy bag you can bring it, otherwise we do provide a bag to carry your luggage, a 70 lts dry bag.

PHARMACY

The guide will carry with him at all time a first aid kit with all the needs but you should bring your own medications as we are not allow to give any specific medication for safety.

**** if you have any specific medical conditions that we should be aware before starting up the trip please communicate the information before arrival, any old injuries or allergies should be known by the guides.****

CLIMATE:

Cold that's for sure! But a dry cold with white all around. Your guide will assist your choice of equipment to bring on the expedition and make sure you have everything you need to be warm all the expedition. The sun could be real bright when shinning on an ocean of white snow. The temperature will be between 0c to -40c. The guide keeps the privilege to modify the itinerary under bad weather or any concerns he might have for the safety of the guests and the dog teams. Enjoy your stay

