

Dogsledding in the Northwoods
Ely, Minnesota
March 16 - 20, 2008 (Sunday-Thursday)

Traveling through a quiet pristine winter wilderness on the back of a sled pulled by dogs who love what they are doing is one of the most exhilarating things you'll ever try. The silence of the snow-filled ancient boreal forest is broken only by the steady trotting of the dogs and the sound of the sled runners. When its time for a rest break, some of the dogs ask for a well-deserved pet, while others do everything they can to get the sled moving again. And you will find it is more active than you thought. Fortunately, though, you'll be sharing a sled with someone and you can switch between the very vigorous activity of driving the sled (contrary to popular notions you do not just stand on the end of the sled and yell "Mush!") and a more relaxing time of sitting cozily bundled in the sled and watching the spectacular winter scenery go by. If you want to immerse yourself in this sport for three days - learning how to care for and harness the dogs and drive (mush) a dog sled- then this is the trip for you. And after a day of activity, you can enjoy eating hearty meals and reading and relaxing in cozy, well-heated lodging. No experience is necessary- we teach you everything you need to know to enjoy and stay warm in this winter paradise.

Our dog handlers are professionals with years of experience. They love their dogs and love to teach mushing, and you can mush to your heart's content. On calm days we'll head into the wilderness of the Boundary Waters, where the frozen lakes and rivers serve as our highways. On windy days we'll explore the miles of beautiful birch and pine forests surrounding Ely, where we will see ample signs of the moose, timber wolves, mink and muskrats that make their home here-and few signs of people. Although we are unlikely to actually see any of the wolves that are increasingly populating this area, we may well hear them howling at night.

For three nights we will be staying at a family-owned Ely lodge. There you can soothe your tired muscles in a sauna, or read and relax in our cozy, well-heated cabin. Situated on the edge of a lake, the Lodge is known for the beauty of its surroundings and its Northwoods hospitality. On our third night we will stay in a yurt, an insulated Mongolian tent-like shelter with a wooden frame and a canvas skin. A yurt, with its indoor heater and cots with warm sleeping bags for the night, is a big step above winter camping and yet still provides the solitude and beauty of a campsite.

The trip begins at 2 p.m. at our lodging in Ely, Minnesota. If you're flying in, we provide transportation on a cost-share basis or you can rent a car. If you choose the first option, we'll meet you at 10:30 am at the airport in Duluth, Minnesota. After driving to Ely, we'll settle into our cabin and then go into town. Ely, although a small town, has many interesting shops and is a fun place to wander around for a bit before visiting the International Wolf Center. There is no better place to learn about wolves' feeding and hunting behaviors. On our first full day we will get to know the dogs, learn the ins and outs of mushing as we travel through snow-filled woods, and stop along the trail to eat a hot and hearty lunch. On the second day we dogsled to our yurt on a secluded lake, so remote that we are almost certain to be the only people enjoying this quiet and beautiful place. This is the perfect spot for snowshoeing, stargazing, or just contemplating the beauty of winter wilderness. We also have the opportunity to learn how to care for our dogs on an expedition, including how to feed them and stake them out. The next day we dogsled back to the lodge, enjoy the sauna and a hot shower, and share a final farewell dinner. After returning to Ely for some last minute shopping, we leave there about 11 a.m. on March 20 and you can plan to be back in Duluth not later than 2:00 p.m.

To reserve a place on this winter adventure, send your deposit of \$300 or the full trip fee of \$1095 (deduct \$50 if you register by 11/16) to the Adventures in Good Company office, register on our web site, or call to register by phone. The trip fee includes 4 nights lodging, guide services, meals from dinner on Sunday through breakfast on Thursday, entrance to the Wolf Center, group equipment, and dogs and sleds. Transportation from Duluth to Ely and during the trip is available on a cost-share basis or you can provide your own.

A d v e n t u r e s i n G o o d C o m p a n y

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