

Howling with Wolves, Running with Dogs

Ely, Minnesota

December 30, 2007- January 5, 2008

Start the New Year with an active and fun-filled week of immersion in Minnesota's Northwoods and two of its' most fascinating inhabitants: timber wolves and sled dogs! Timber wolves have long been associated with wilderness and as such hold a special place in our imagination. Recovering from near extinction, they are now thriving in northern Minnesota and no one does a better job of helping the public learn about them than the folks at the International Wolf Center in Ely. Equally fascinating is their close cousin, the sled dog. Mushing a sled through pristine winter wilderness is exciting, exhilarating, and completely apart from daily life. The dogs are bred to pull and they love what they are doing. With three full days of dogsledding, you learn how to harness the dogs and drive a dog sled and get to know their unique personalities. In addition there will be time to snowshoe and cross country ski, look for the Northern Lights, relax in front of a roaring fire in our comfortable cabin, and let the heat of a genuine Northwoods sauna rejuvenate tired muscles. No experience is necessary- we teach you everything you need to know to have fun and stay warm in this winter paradise.

The trip begins on Sunday, December 30 when we meet you in Minneapolis, Minnesota early in the morning. After driving to Ely, we'll settle into our cabin and then go cross country skiing either on one of the nearby trails or across White Iron Lake. After wards we'll meet with one of the knowledgeable staff from the International Wolf Center to learn the hows and whys of wolf communication and even try our hand at howling to a local wolf pack. The next day, after learning about the past, present, and future of wolf research, we try our hand at locating a wild radio-collared wolf through the use of radio telemetry. We'll first try tracking on the ground and then take to the air for a bird's eye view of the Superior National Forest and hands on experience of tracking wolves from the air. We can celebrate the New Year that evening with a snowshoe across Farm Lake, a sauna, or perhaps an outdoor bonfire. There are excellent cross country ski trails as well as endless snowshoeing options in the area and that's what we'll spend the first day of the New Year doing or you might choose just to take a little down time or spend some extra time in the sauna.

We switch gears then and the next three days are full days of mushing. With two women in every sled, you have the opportunity to 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. 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, observing ample signs of wildlife and few signs of people. We leave Ely in the morning on January 5, and you can plan to be back in Minneapolis not later than 5:30 p.m.

Each night we return to our cozy accommodations at Silver Rapids Lodge, situated four miles outside of Ely on a private peninsula. We'll have both a 3 bedroom cabin and a 2 bedroom lodge suite so there will be both plenty of space (and bathrooms!) and common areas where we can enjoy dinners and lazy evenings in front of the fire. Some of the rooms are singles and others are doubles, and will be assigned as you register.

To reserve a place on this winter adventure, send your deposit of \$300 or the full trip fee of \$1795 (deduct \$50 if you register by September 30) to the Adventures in Good Company office, register on our web site, or call to register by phone. The trip fee includes round-trip transportation from Minneapolis, 6 nights lodging, guide services, meals from dinner on Sunday through breakfast on Saturday, skis and snowshoes, all programs on the itinerary, and dogs and sleds. Three months before the trip, we'll send you a complete packing list and other information to help you prepare. If you have any questions, please call the Adventures in Good Company office. We'd love to welcome you to this mushing adventure!

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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