

Yukon Quest Special

8 days

Saturday 11th to Saturday 18th February

(add Saturday night in hotel to take part in the Yukon Quest Finish - £90)



This year the Yukon Quest starts on 4th February 2012 in Fairbanks Alaska. Guests will have the opportunity to take part in the Finish banquet on 18th February, the Meet the Musher's evening on 17th February, visit the Braeburn check point as well as participate as a volunteer at the Finish line of the race.

The itinerary for this tour will be similar to the 8 day Husky Adventure Tour shown below – with the Quest extras thrown in. This special tour is for those who want a taste of the Yukon Quest excitement – Yukon Style!!

We advise that you arrive in Whitehorse the day before to be rested for the start of your trip on Saturday. Overnight in hotel costs £90 person – breakfast is at your own expense.

Day 1 Saturday

You will be picked up from your hotel at 10am and we will do a short tour of Whitehorse. Here you also have the chance to do some last minute shopping. Afterwards we drive to the Guide's Ranch, 20km South of Whitehorse where we outfit you with your expedition clothing.

You move into your cosy cabin, or nice double room in the main lodge. The Lodge is overlooking beautiful Fish Lake, with southern exposure. The dogs are waiting to meet you. Lunch in the main lodge. Do you want to know what a bootie is? Well you learn it today. We show you how to harness the dogs and give you instruction on how to drive the sled.

Depending on the weather and time of the day we hook up the dogs and go for a short first run. Three dogs pull you on this first day. After taking care of the dogs we enjoy a hearty meal. You might want to take a shower or just relax beside the stove, and of course listen to the dogs howling outside. Overnight at Guide's Ranch. (L,D)

Day 2 Sunday

While the morning sun slowly lifts over the horizon we prepare for our daytrip after breakfast. We feed and water the dogs and harness them up at around 11am. We cover about 35 km in distance, driving towards Jackson Lake and the Copper Haul Road.

Just the slight sound of the working dogs and runners in the snow will be with you for that day. You get to know your dogs and start to form a personal relationship. With every stop, and praise for the dogs, they learn to trust you and you to trust them. Overnight at Guide's Ranch. (B,L,D)

Day 3 Monday

The dogs will take us on a trail east of the Ranch. We are continuously climbing as we are heading on an abandoned mining road on MacIntyre Mountain. On occasional stops we can enjoy unprecedented scenery of the Coastal Mountain with Fish Lake nestled deep in the valley. Return to the Lodge. Overnight at Guide's Ranch (B,L,D)



Day 4 Tuesday

Today we head towards beautiful Bonneville Lakes, west of the Ranch. The trails are narrower with some challenging up and downs. The Coastal Mountains are always in view to the South and West. Part of the trip we travel above tree line and easily cover between 20 and 30km. Slowly, a new feeling of life will creep in. In harmony with the running rhythm of your team you will enjoy nature in a way you've never experienced before. Overnight at Guide's Ranch. There is a gravity fed indoor shower waiting for you in the main lodge. (B,L,D)

Day 5 Wednesday

Now you leave behind the last remnants of civilization and head out to a real wilderness. The trail follows Fish Lake and climb and heads into the Coastal Range to the south. After approximately 2.5 hrs of running time we reach our trapper's wall tent camp at dry creek. Overnight in wall tent (B,L,D)

Day 6 Thursday

From the wall tent camp, weather permitting we will make a run to the top of the mountain above tree line to Ptarmigan flats where there is a good chance of seeing large flocks of these beautiful white birds and having some wonderful sledding on miles of wind blown snowy hill tops, before heading back to the wall tent camp (B,L,D)

Day 7 Friday

After a musher's breakfast, we will start for our mushing back to Guide's Ranch. The dogs pull us steady westbound with the Coastal Mountains in plain view ahead of us. Way too soon we return to civilization and most of all, you have to leave your new friends, the dogs, behind. (B,L). In the late afternoon we drive you to Whitehorse where you spend your night in a downtown hotel. Overnight in hotel. In Whitehorse you will receive your 'Musher Diploma' and shuttle pass.

Day 8 Saturday

The hotel van (or taxi) brings you to the airport for your southbound flight.... or better yet, stay with us for the Quest banquet (you will need to stay overnight in hotel - £90 per person) and we will bring you back to the airport on Sunday.

Included:

Transfer from and to Whitehorse and all extra transportation to Quest activities.
Last night accommodation in Whitehorse – Friday 17th February (1 night double room - shared).
Accommodation in cabins (4 nights' double room) or heated tent outpost camps (2 nights' group accommodation).
All meals including non-alcoholic beverages except dinner on day 7, breakfast day 8 in Whitehorse.
Banquet tickets and inclusion in Yukon Quest Start Banquet
Use of personal sled and 3 to 6 Huskies.
Musher diploma and shuttle pass
Winter boots included, all other equipment, see below*.

Not included:

Overnight on arrival Friday evening in Whitehorse – room costs £90 per person
International flights
Travel insurance
Alcoholic beverages (we buy jointly before the tour).
Meals in restaurants – dinner day 7, breakfast day 8 and any extra meals during Quest activities in Whitehorse.
All expenses of personal nature.
*Rental of winter clothing – jacket, trousers, sleeping bag, mitts for CAD\$135 payable upon arrival cash or creditcard.

Cost: £1665 per person incl. local taxes

Room in Whitehorse please add £90

Important:

To participate you must be healthy, enjoy being with dogs and have a good team spirit. Dog sledding is a comparable physical activity to cross-country skiing, so you should be in relatively good physical shape. If snow conditions are not adequate, we use our third base camp in Watson Lake to run a similar itinerary. Changes in itinerary subject to weather and condition of the group are possible.

