

Dog Days of Winter, 2023 for groups of 4 (plus small children)

January 6 ,7, 8

February 3, 4, 5

March 10, 11, 12

Come experience winter in the northwoods of Minnesota with the very best ambassadors of snow—Alaskan Huskies! Dogsledding is an open invitation to wildness and terrific fun. Our dogs include skilled veterans and enthusiastic youngsters. They are friendly and huggable and extremely well cared for (following trips, many people declare they want to be reincarnated as one of our sled dogs).

Your adventure begins with an exuberant ‘meet and greet’ with the dogs. Next, we’ll teach you how to be a passenger (there are a few things you need to know that will help you be part of the team). We run teams of 3-6 dogs, depending on conditions. It’s a very intimate experience with the dogs, allowing time and space to stop for pictures and appreciate the hushed beauty of winter. There will also be opportunities to spend more time getting to know the dogs and their unique personalities, snowshoe, observe wildlife, learn about sustainable living, and much more.

Your guides for this trip are long-time mushers and guides who love to share this incredible sport and way of life with you. Kathleen Anderson has been homesteading in northern Minnesota and guiding trips for nearly 4 decades. She currently has 28 sled dogs. Chris Heeter (founder of The Wild Institute) has been mushing and guiding dogsledding trips with Kathleen for 30 years, and she speaks to companies and conferences on leadership, teamwork, inclusion, and work culture using sled dog stories and lessons learned from the dog yard.

Though you do not need any prior dogsledding experience, know that the dogs are large and strong, and could knock you down in their enthusiasm to give you a hug if you step into their space. We’ll review safety items and teach you how to be a passenger on the sled. Running dogs, even as a passenger, is not a passive experience. It requires a little balance and the ability to either kneel in the sled or ride sitting down. We’ll ask you to lean with us on the turns and be able to assist by standing on the brake and holding the team if we need to make adjustments on the trail. As a passenger, you are part of the team! That’s what makes dogsledding such a fun, in-the-moment experience of connecting with the dogs, the sled, the musher, and the stunning beauty of the northwoods in winter.

Kids are most welcome on these adventures! Depending on their size and comfort level, they will either ride in the sled with their adult, or they can ride on their own in a separate sled (hence the price difference between kids under 40lbs and adults—our best guess regarding size and comfort level).

****Please note: these are full-day trips. Half-day adventures are also possible, subject to availability**

The Details...

What to bring: When you register, you'll receive a packing list, so you'll have what you need to be comfortable.

Weather: Winter in northern Minnesota is more variable than you might think. Past trips have experienced temperatures below zero and in the 20's. We'll have a bonfire going and a warm cabin.

Food: A hearty and delicious lunch is provided, along with hot drinks and snacks throughout the day (dietary needs can usually be accommodated); half day trips include hot drinks and snacks

Dates: January 6, 7, 8 February 3, 4, 5 March 10, 11, 12

If you are interested in a half-day trip, please inquire and we will do our best to accommodate you

Safety: Your safety and comfort are a big part of what makes these trips so fun and memorable. From smaller dog teams to clothing suggestions to covid-safe practices, we make sure you can simply show up, be present, and enjoy your adventure.

Schedule: **Day trips are from 10am – 3pm; half days are either 9:30am – noon or 1:30pm – 4pm.** We'll get started by introducing you to the huskies (be prepared for hugs and scratches), teach you how to be a passenger, and take you out on the sled through beautifully groomed private trails in the northwoods of Minnesota. The trails twist and turn and take you through boreal forest, with spruce, pine, and birch trees.

Location: The trip is located inland of Two Harbors in northeastern Minnesota. Wintermoon is Kathleen Anderson's home, centered around her 28 sled dogs and a beautiful Finnish homestead that she has restored. Nestled deep in the northwoods, with solar panels, hand pump for water, woodstoves, Finnish sauna, and a comfortable outhouse (no kidding), you will enter into a much simpler, less complicated way of life.

Transportation: Brimson, MN is about 200 miles north of Minneapolis/St Paul. If you are driving from the twin cities, plan on about 4 ½ hours. If you are flying, the closest airport is in Duluth, about 55 miles east of Brimson. For the full day (and really, for the half day as well), we strongly recommend that you plan on staying in or near Duluth the night before or after your trip. Driving multiple hours, mushing, and driving even more hours afterward, especially in winter, would make for an overly ambitious and very very long day!

Payment information: Payment in full is due upon registration. If you must cancel and do so 4 weeks prior to the trip, your trip fee is transferable to another day trip through the end of the following year; due to the high demand and short window of time to run dogsledding trips, if you cancel less than 4 weeks beforehand, the trip fee is not refundable or transferable. The Wild Institute reserves the right to alter trip plans due to severe weather, water/snow conditions, or other unforeseen circumstances.

Cost:

Full-day trips are \$450/person; for kids under 40lbs the cost is \$225/kid (they'll ride with an adult)

Half-day trips are \$250/person; for kids under 40lbs the cost is \$125/kid (they'll ride with an adult)

You can mail a check to the address below or contact us for Venmo or a Square invoice

Dog Days of Winter, 2023 Registration Form

{If coming with others, please choose a group leader to coordinate the information}

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Cell phone: _____

Other phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Date of your day trip (circle):

January 6 7 8 February 3 4 5 March 10 11 12

2nd choice if your first date isn't available: _____

3rd choice: _____

Please check:

Full day _____ Half day (if available) _____

Because the **world** needs a lot more **WILD...**

We need the following background information about you to support our planning and to make your mushing experience go smoothly. (Feel free attach additional pages as necessary.)

Participant details:

| Name | Age | Weight* |
|------|-----|---------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

*Knowing participants' weights helps us balance the sleds (our sleds do have a weight limit) and lets us know how many dogs we will need to pull each sled

Have you ever experienced dogsledding before? Yes No

If yes, when? Where?

What inspired you to want to participate in this dogsledding adventure?

For full day trips we will be providing lunch. Please let us know if there are any food restrictions we need to be aware of. Be as specific as possible. We will do our best to accommodate your needs, but please remember that we will be sourcing food in a remote rural location.

Do you have any questions, concerns, or things we should be aware of to make your trip a memorable positive experience for you?