

North Pole disclaimer



introduction

For over a decade Charity Challenge has been successfully running challenges across more than 30 countries worldwide in some incredibly wild and remote locations. As such, we have identified and put in place a number of measures to best manage our North Pole challenges and the many potential issues that have an immediate knock-on effect for the day-to-day logistics involved.

The following information is intended to better inform you of the environment in which the challenge will take place, and also some of the extra measures that we have put in place to manage any unforeseen changes that need to be made to the itinerary. The information also gives you an indication of the costs to you in the unlikely event of an extended delay or change to your North Pole expedition.

please read...

Please read the following information in full and ask any questions that you may have. If you are not 100% prepared to accept the nature of the challenge environment and the points clearly detailed below, please do not book on to the challenge.

background

1. The North Pole trek takes place in one of the last true wildernesses in the World.
2. Temperatures can range from -45 degrees centigrade to +30 degrees centigrade.
3. The essential Barneo Ice Camp and runway is only set up for one month of the year (April) and this is when we have the very narrow window of opportunity to trek/ski to the Geographic North Pole.
4. The whole challenge takes place on the frozen ice on top of the Arctic Ocean. The ocean ice pack is moving and the ice can and does crack causing open leads and pressure ridges.

5. A moving ice pack has implications for journey times. If it moves in your favour (towards the North pole), you will have to walk less distance to reach the Pole. If it moves against you, you can go to sleep and wake up to find yourself with a few hours walk just to get back to where you were the night before.
6. The Barneo base camp is set up by first airlifting a bulldozer on to the ice, creating a runway, landing a plane with the equipment and building a base camp for the duration of the one month North Pole season. Issues with poor weather, mainly visibility for the helicopter to make the initial drop, or for the plane to land at any point, can delay flights on to the ice to start the challenge. Even once the base camp is set up, the runway can crack and have to be repaired or relocated.

implications

All of the above means that even before the ski challenge itself begins, there can be major delays and changes to the programme. We will make the reasonably necessary changes to the programme and will at our discretion incur the expense involved for the first two nights of any additional accommodation and meals in Longyearbyen that need to be arranged. (Longyearbyen is the town from where you catch the flight that takes you on to the ice; and it is to Longyearbyen that you return to after your expedition to the North Pole.) If delays mean that you have to stay in Longyearbyen for more than two additional nights, this will be at your expense (food and accommodation). We shall also (conditions permitting) try to mitigate any costs and enhance your experience of the polar conditions by taking a training expedition to ski out of Longyearbyen and camp out overnight, should the delays be before the flight to the polar ice cap. This will also help with the pre-expedition training and preparations.

Once on the ice, your progress will depend on the weather conditions, the physical state of the group, whether the ice is flat or broken up, whether you encounter any leads (breaks in the ice) or encounter polar bears. There are so many variables that you absolutely must be prepared for any changes and delays that might occur. Weather can also delay the flight home, or your return from the ice cap may have been delayed. Again any additional hotel and meal costs over and above the two extra days, we have agreed to fund, will have to be to your own account.

We strongly advise you to ensure your diary is free of any important meetings or events for at least four days after the planned return to the UK in case we do have to delay your return flights. If you are on the ice and we need to amend the return date by up to four days, we will do so to enable the challenge to continue without checking with each individual (as this may be difficult to do once the challenge has begun).

Please do note that our standard itinerary does already include contingency days and this information document and supplementary conditions are to inform you of what we have planned and what costs you should expect if your North Pole expedition is extended beyond those contingency days.

your acknowledgement of the potential implications

- 1. I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understood and agree fully all the information and conditions as set out in this document.
- 2. I hereby understand that I have booked this challenge with Charity Challenge and consent to their booking conditions and these conditions which I agree shall be incorporated into and form part of my agreement with Charity Challenge."
- 3. I hereby acknowledge and understand that the operation of the North Pole challenge is incredibly unpredictable and accept that there are circumstances where I could be denied from even starting the challenge if for example, the base camp cannot be established or flights cannot land on the ice due to poor weather.
- 4. I acknowledge that such situations are out of Charity Challenge's control and that I will not be entitled to a refund of costs if the challenge cannot take place.
- 5. I acknowledge and agree that Charity Challenge may, if it is considered necessary to enable the challenge to continue successfully, delay my return flight by up to a maximum of 4 days once the challenge has begun. I note that Charity Challenge will try to advise me if this is necessary but will not need to check for my permission to do so.

Signed (by client) _____

Name _____

Challenge departure date _____

Today's date _____

Signed (by Charity Challenge) _____

Name _____

Today's date _____