

SpiritAdventures

ByElena



SkiTravesia Groenlandia



Introduction of the Founders

From our ski and expedition lodge in East Greenland, on one of the wildest coastlines on earth, we're passionate about ski touring, mountaineering and wilderness trekking. Pirhuk is a local partnership of highly qualified mountain guides and Tunuumi elders who share a reverence for the mountains, fjords and glaciers of our homeland - a deep bond that inspires all our trips and expeditions. This has been our dedication and way of life for over 20 years, shared with the many friends we've made whilst exploring these stunning fjords and mountains.

Helen and Matt Spenceley
Pirhuk Founders



OUR LODGE

On the pristine and wild arctic coastline of East Greenland, in the small Tunuumi village of Kulusuk, our lodge is surrounded by heavily glaciated alpine mountains and fjords that freeze in winter.

We ski, climb, trek and kayak directly from the lodge as well as using our boats, dog sleds and snowmobiles to access the remotest regions. Hand-built from timber to weather the fierce storms of winter, this is our home and base for the trips and expeditions we guide through the year. The lodge provides comfortable accommodation, space to prepare kit and a workshop to look after our boats and sleds.



GREENLAND SKI TOURING
*IFMGA mountain guides based in East
Greenland, we specialise in
adventurous ski touring in the vast arctic
ranges that surround our ski lodge.*



Skiing, exploration and adventure

For over 20 years now, skiing in East Greenland has been our way of life. The wild mountains surrounding our home and ski lodge are part of one of the greatest tracts of unexplored ski touring terrain on earth – from the alpine ranges on the edge of the ice cap to the coastal mountains that rise directly from the fjords. A partnership of Inuit elders and IFMGA mountain guides who love skiing, we combine many years of expertise with the highest international qualifications. Our aim is to provide inspiring trips and expeditions with an emphasis on brilliant skiing, exploration, adventure and an insight into this land.



GREENLAND SKI TOURING WEEK

*The finest summit – sea ski touring from our
lodge in arctic East Greenland.*

Trip length // 8 days

Wilderness ski touring and exploration in arctic East
Greenland

Vast backcountry ski terrain: alpine summits to the
icebergs of the frozen fjords

Comfortable ski lodge: experience life in a remote Inuit
community

A partnership of the most experienced IFMGA mountain
guides and Inuit elders

In East Greenland, one of the wildest coastlines on earth,
in vast alpine ranges that extend thousands of
kilometres, we have found a paradise for ski touring.

Heavily glaciated mountains, offering many lifetimes of stunning ski lines and exploration, rise from the icebergs of the frozen fjords. In the small Inuit village of Kulusuk, we have built our ski lodge and home. Exploring these mountains on skis and experiencing life here is our passion.

A partnership of local IFMGA mountain guides, Inuit ice pilots and dog sledders, our aim is that these trips pay respect to this place – an immersive experience of life in this wild arctic environment and subsistence-hunting community. Each week is unique; we closely follow the conditions to find the best skiing, using our snowmobiles, boats and dog sleds to access the mountains. For much of the week, we will be based from our comfortable lodge in Kulusuk. For several nights, we plan to visit our remote mountain hut on the north shores of Apusiaajik, opening access to many northern aspects. For over 20 years now, we've been captivated by this region and enjoy sharing what we've found here with folk who come to ski with us each season.



TERRAIN AND SKI OBJECTIVES

From the lodge, we have access to a huge area of alpine peaks that rise directly out of the frozen ocean, bounded to the west by an icecap second in size only to Antarctica. This is one of the richest areas for exploratory backcountry skiing on earth.

The mountains of East Greenland are heavily glaciated and surrounded by a complex of fjords. They offer a myriad of great touring and descents, fall-line skiing directly from the summit to the shore. The terrain is classically alpine, lines linking peaks and cols with mellow glacier runs right up to couloirs and faces. We look to find suitable objectives for each group and will discuss with you the type of skiing you like best. There are countless classic lines to be skied and we are always on the look-out for first descents. Many of the region's fjords are frozen, allowing us to tow in by snowmobile or ride dog sleds to the base of our tour. Other waterways remain open throughout spring. Conditions allowing, we will utilise our powerful motorboats to access some of the many stunning objectives that start and end by the saltwater of the fjords.

Vertical height gain from sea to summit starts at around 700m and rises to over 2.000m further inland.

Ascents/descents closest to the lodge average between 800m and 1.000m of vertical, allowing us to link multiple descents.



THE PLAN

In this wild and remote region, the state of the sea ice, snowpack and prevailing weather dictates everything that we do. All plans work from there and no two weeks are the same.

Flying into Kulusuk, East Greenland on Saturday, we'll meet you at the snow strip and skin around 30 minutes to the lodge whilst all kit is taken by snowmobile. After lunch and an update on conditions, we cover a detailed avalanche exercise, if time allows as part of a short ski tour. Sunday is our first full ski day. Early each morning, we will check the state of the sea ice, snowpack and weather before confirming our objective, sometimes skiing classic lines, others exploring new ground. We ski each day, either from the door or more normally using snowmobiles to tow in over the sea ice; other days we may travel by dog sled or boat to reach our mountain. Of the six full days of skiing, we plan to spend two nights at our mountain hut before returning to the lodge again. After a full week, we skin back to the snow strip on Saturday in time for your prop-plane flight to Reykjavik, Iceland.



ABILITY

We work hard to build compatible teams who will have a great week together. Whilst many folk have skied with us before, for first-timers, we ask that you are a competent backcountry skier comfortable making ascents of 1000 – 1400m (at up to 400m/h). Whilst we will be looking for soft snow, you should be comfortable skinning and kick-turning on hard surfaces. On the descent, you should be able to safely ski variable snow on classic touring terrain. Basic use of a mountaineering axe and boot crampons is necessary on short sections of steeper ground (eg. cols and summit slopes). We will lead a detailed avalanche training exercise and cover any rope work required whilst on glaciated terrain. Please contact us if you have any questions about your suitability for this trip.

GUIDING

We are a small and dedicated team of internationally qualified IFMGA/UIAGM mountain guides who are also passionate skiers. As East Greenland specialists, we encompass over 20 years' experience in this region. We have great respect for these remote mountains, carefully managing the unique risks this arctic environment presents. Our safety record is a result of this focus.

We are happy to help folk keen to refine ski touring technique, from glacier travel and avalanche safety to technical ski and mountaineering skills.

Ski Touring Week



PRICE
4,291 GBP

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Trip guiding by a Pirhuk UIAGM/IFMGA Mountain Guide
- Baggage transfers: snow strip - village
- 5 nights of lodge accommodation in Kulusuk (fully catered)
- 2 nights of accommodation in our wilderness hut (sleeping bag provided)
- Logistical support for ski tours
- Hill food
- Bear deterrents
- Safety and communications equipment

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Return flights between your home country and Kulusuk, East Greenland
- Expedition/travel insurance
- Personal expedition equipment
- Rental equipment costs
- Any extra expenses due to unforeseen circumstances or changes to the planned itinerary (e.g. delayed flights, extra logistics and accommodation)

ICELAND-GREENLAND FLIGHTS

The scheduled flight between Keflavik International, Iceland and the small airstrip in Kulusuk, Greenland is served by Icelandair. The airline typically opens ticket sales around 12 months in advance. To ensure seat availability specialist travel agency VR Travel, based in Denmark, looks to make reservations for our trips immediately - seats often sell out in a short time. Flights can be booked through VR Travel, which can also assist with your international flights from home and accommodation in Iceland if required, or directly through Icelandair's website if seats are still available.

We take bookings for our trips well ahead of ticket sales opening, and spaces fill quickly. When VR Travel has secured seat reservations, we'll contact you to confirm that flights are available to be booked. On very rare occasions, flights for our trip dates are unavailable. In that case, we'll suggest new dates as close as possible to those originally booked. If these are unsuitable, you'll be offered a full refund.

HOPE YOU LIKED THE IDEA TO COME TO GREENLAND

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