

POLAR BEAR EXPEDITION

IMPORTANT TRAVEL INFORMATION



Check-in time: 7:00 AM Departure time: 8:00 AM Lunch included
Departure Location: Northern Alaska Tour Company 3820 University Ave. South

TOUR LENGTH / ITINERARY

The Polar Bear Expedition is a one day tour by land and sea. The flight departs Fairbanks at 8:00 am and normally returns by air at approximately 7:00—8:00 pm. The flight route is typically as follows: Fairbanks to Deadhorse—fuel stop, restroom break. Deadhorse to the village of Kaktovik on Barter Island—arrive between 11:00 am—12:00 pm. Lunch upon arrival. Afternoon aboard boat for polar bear viewing. Depart Kaktovik for Fairbanks approximately 4:00—5:00 pm. Arrive Fairbanks approximately 7:00—8:00 pm. *The is only intended to provide an approximate tour itinerary—there is room in the itinerary if we experience delays or have tailwind making for a faster flight.*



TOUR AIRCRAFT / VEHICLES

The flight portion of the tour is typically conducted in a 8-passenger twin-engine Piper Navajo Chieftain. Ground transportation is done in small groups utilizing 15-passenger van. The inside of the tour vehicle is maintained as a smoke-free environment. There are opportunities to smoke outside the vehicle along the tour route.

BOAT EXCURSION

Bear viewing on the Polar Bear Expedition is done aboard Coast Guard licensed small boats. Guests should expect to be aboard uncovered, open air boats. This leaves guests exposed to weather and should dress accordingly. Fall temperatures in Kaktovik can range from the 20's to 40's (above zero Fahrenheit).



WHAT TO BRING

Due to weight limits on the aircraft, each guest must limit themselves to a small backpack sized bag 15 lbs. or less. Storage is available in Fairbanks for your additional baggage and belongings, if needed. The wind usually blows in Kaktovik. Hats, gloves, and warm, wind resistant clothing are a good idea. Be sure to dress warm and in layers as we will spend a great deal of time outdoors.



All-weather walking or hiking boots are recommended. Hand warmers and toe warmers are great for keeping hands and feet warm while viewing and photographing polar bears. Please be sure to bring enough film and memory cards as there may not be any available in Kaktovik.

There is no ATM in Kaktovik. Please bring enough money to purchase anything you may need, although availability is extremely limited. Cell phones may be useful but reception in Kaktovik through the AT&T network is spotty. Text messages make it through more often.

MEALS

Lunch is included with the price of this excursion. Guests should plan on having breakfast PRIOR to departure from Fairbanks. Lunch is approximately 12:00 noon and we are on the boat from 2 to 4 hours. Guests are encouraged to bring snacks/beverages to tide them over until return to Fairbanks. Any guests with special dietary needs should take this into consideration when packing as the menu is limited for special requests.

POLAR BEAR EXPECTATION

IMPORTANT — The expectation of guests participating in the Polar Bear Expedition is ... to see a polar bear! For the past decade or more, bears have consistently been sighted in Kaktovik during late summer and the fall, making this an excellent location for sightings. However, it is important to keep in mind polar bears are wild animals with habits and migratory patterns that can change and be unpredictable for known and unknown factors.



Northern Alaska Tour Company's Polar Bear Expedition provides a journey by small plane across the Brooks Mountain Range, a visit to the Inupiat Eskimo village of Kaktovik, and a chance to reach the shores of the Arctic Ocean. While called the Polar Bear Expedition — there is more to your journey than just the bear — it is an unparalleled experience enhanced by the location,

community, and the flight experience.

ALTERATIONS

Guest safety always takes precedence over convenience. Due to rapidly changing weather conditions in Alaska's arctic, it is not unusual for flight departure times to be delayed. On rare occasions, weather or other uncontrollable circumstance may require the alteration or cancellation of the scheduled tour itinerary. VERY IMPORTANT — Due to limited space and tour departures it is very important to understand, in the event of a cancellation, re-scheduling very likely may not be possible. Northern Alaska Tour Company is not responsible for any travel expenses incurred by guests to come to Fairbanks for this excursion. Guests should have alternate plans for additional time created in their itinerary in the unlikely event a cancellation is required.

ARCTIC CIRCLE CERTIFICATE

When you check-in or speak with a reservationist, please ensure they have the correct spelling of the first and last names of each person in your tour party as they wish it to appear on their Arctic Circle Certificate. Each name will appear on their official Arctic Circle certificate.



GRATUITIES

As with other service industries tips are not required but are used to reward guides / pilots / boat captains for a job well done. Standard tip for a tour ranges from \$20.00—\$30+ per guest for excellent service. A good range for pilot tips is approximately \$10.00 per guest.

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