

REALLY WILD

Three stylized tree icons, each with a central trunk and three branches, arranged in a row.

Ignite, inspire, achieve!

Academy

Arctic Winter Expedition

A large, conical tepee made of light-colored fabric is pitched in a snowy landscape. The interior of the tepee is illuminated by a warm, glowing fire, casting a soft light on the snow. The background features a dark, starry night sky with a faint aurora borealis visible in shades of green and purple. Silhouettes of evergreen trees are visible in the distance. A stack of logs is visible to the left of the tepee.

Expedition Highlights



The thrill of the Arctic begins immediately upon arrival. Set in the most stunning of locations, the Arctic night sky, crisp cold air, deep powdery snow and silhouetted trees let us know immediately that we are somewhere very special indeed.

Arctic survival skills are taught right away so we can safely get outdoors on day one to begin an experience of a lifetime.

Running husky teams, trekking through the wilds on skis and snowshoes, sleeping in snow holes, building a full Arctic expedition camp, experiencing nights out under the north star and northern lights and applying newly developed survival and life skills to thrive in the wilderness, are all highlights to be enjoyed. These drive every individual to a level of achievement few others will ever experience. Personal achievements and completion of personalised challenges, which will have been set prior to the expedition, are all celebrated during a well deserved awards ceremony and fantastic traditional Finnish meal on the final night.



Activities



Activities can include:

- Cross-country skiing
- Snow shoeing
- Tracking animals
- Husky dog sledding
- Planning and leading expeditions
- Safely building and sleeping in snow shelters
- Sleeping out under the stars and northern lights
- Navigating across tundra-like environments and dense forests
- Establishing an Arctic expedition base camp
- Conducting search and rescue challenges
- Learning Arctic first aid
- Knife-craft, fire lighting skills and establishing camps at -20 degrees Celcius
- Enjoying great food cooked over camp fires and expedition stoves
- Rewards and celebration evening with fine Finnish food
- Really Wild Method® mentoring and personalised challenges



Location



We fly into Ivalo, a small town located 400km north of the Arctic Circle in Finland. Our beautiful and stunning location is set in the middle of a breath-taking national park near the borders of Russia and Norway. It enjoys amazing snow from October to April. It is the perfect location to learn how to survive and thrive in the wild with its wild valleys, hills and forests. Our second Finnish site is in Tornio and offers a similarly incredible experience.



Accommodation & Facilities



Most students choose to sleep outdoors as much as they can in their own snow holes, igloos or quinzees, even out in the open under the stars kept warm only by a fire and their kit.



We also have extremely warm and comfortable accommodation that ranges from gorgeous log cabins with open fires, to designer apartments just a short walk away from the main lodge. Showers, saunas, a restaurant and meeting rooms allow us to safely prepare for and warm up after each adventure.



Example Itinerary



Expeditions take place between October and April

Day 1 - Travel day, welcome meal and first steps outdoors

Day 2 - Classroom learning and expedition base-camp set up

Day 3 - Snow shoeing and skiing skills - forest trek to a local summit

Day 4 - Snow shelter construction and Arctic survival skills

Day 5 - Arctic wilderness expedition day with full kit

Day 6 - Husky dog sledding, ice fishing, Olympics, awards and meal

Day 7 - Travel home

Digital resources for wrap-around learning before and after the trip

Life changing personal growth



Combining the joy and exhilaration of the Arctic with physically demanding activities creates a fantastic learning experience. When paired with our unique and proven methodology for success, (the Really Wild Method®) this experience regularly delivers life-changing results.

Opportunities include the chance to enjoy the thrills and spills experienced by world-famous explorers, to learn about taking responsibility for oneself and others, and to really understand the consequences of each and every decision we make, to learn how to survive and thrive in the wild and in life back at home.

Each participant will be encouraged to reflect on their actions, reactions and ambitions. The group will be encouraged to discuss their findings and use each others' strengths to create highly supportive and functional teams.

The expedition also brings alive several real-world subjects e.g. human and physical geography, the sciences, natural history, culture and politics.

Fully customisable, this trip is suitable for ages 10 and upwards.

Why us

The Really Wild team places each student's personal development and wellbeing at the heart of everything it does.

The team includes world-class and seasoned expedition leaders and survival instructors with many years of Arctic training experience, excellent mentoring and teaching skills, and a real sense of adventure.

This unique combination not only provides for the most exciting of school trips, but ensures that outdoor skills and personal development outcomes are achieved to the highest of standards.

Getting to really know each student before their trip and creating personalised expedition challenges for them to support their own specific needs and ambitions, then relating and applying these experiences and lessons to their lives back home, are examples of how we achieve our positive and often life changing results.

Students also have the opportunity to earn a reference from our company directors that can prove invaluable when applying for school, college, university or work. In any event, what students achieve with us in the Arctic will certainly help them stand out from the crowd.

Contact us

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