

conquer the pole !

**A unique experience
to the geographical North Pole**



Man's new frontiers reach out to the very confines of space and yet the North Pole remains one of the least-visited places since the beginning of time. By organizing the very first tourist expedition to the geographic North Pole, we opened the gates to the Pole to all those dreaming of reaching the top of the Earth.



★ An unrivalled experience of the Arctic

Heir to Soviet know-how on polar expeditions, the *Avia Khatanga* team is our Siberia-based expedition partner. They are presently the only ones in the world capable of setting up a drifting polar base each spring in the proximity of the geographic North Pole. *Avia Khatanga* runs its own fleet of airplanes and helicopters, all especially equipped for Arctic conditions.



★ A dream finally within reach

Since 1991, each year, a privileged group of twenty have shared with us this absolutely unique experience and have discovered the breathtaking beauty of pack ice in conditions similar to those encountered by the very first explorers.

You too may experience the otherworldly pack ice explored by Nansen, Cook and Peary and reach the top of the world on skis or under a parachute. Novices can jump in tandem with an experienced skydiver. Others can reach it in complete comfort by jet and helicopter and spend time at the temporary ice base drifting near the pole, living in well-heated tents.

★ At the heart of the Arctic Ocean, on top of the world !

The geographic North Pole is the mythical and outermost point materializing our planet's rotational axis. Surrounded by the Arctic Ocean, and covered by year-round pack ice, the geographic North Pole is situated at about 1000 kilometers from the magnetic North Pole and at 800 kilometers from the closest shore.

Under permanent daylight six months of the year, pack ice and its slow motion sculpt fantastic and magnificent forms of an infinite variety of shades of blue. Jet - black silky sea-water glimmers as two plates of ice spread apart, and striking optical phenomena offered by the sun and suspended ice particles, all contribute to this otherworldly Arctic environment.

Man's fascination with this extreme place has never ceased. Throughout the centuries, the most epic of human adventures have been written here : Peary, Nansen, Cook, Steger, Etienne, and Ouseland...



Protected by an immense pack-ice, the geographic North Pole has longtime remained inaccessible to common mortals. Since 1991, thanks to our team, those impassioned by adventure and voyage can finally discover the North Pole.

Our drifting polar base is set up close to the North Pole allowing you to reach this mythical point by a six-day ski trip and an optimum security.

Although now accessible, the North Pole remains a rare destination. Up to today, a fewer have reached the North Pole than the top of Mount Everest !



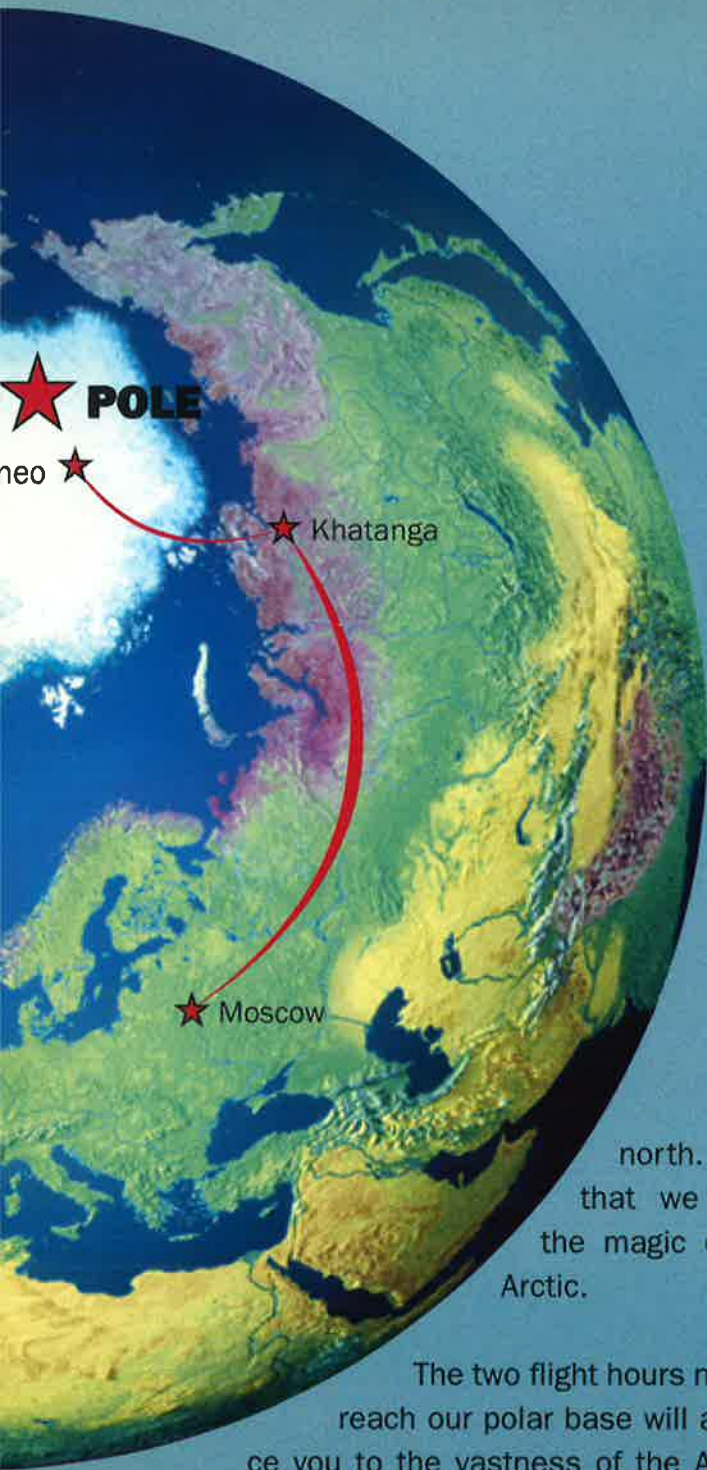
An evening flight brings us to Khatanga ; the very gates of the North Pole! Formerly serving the Soviet military, Khatanga's long airstrip has become the main center of activity of this Siberian town. A small port town on the river Khatanga itself, Khatanga is home to 2 500 inhabitants. Impassioned by the Great North, they have chosen to live here, despite the long polar nights.

The images you'll retain of Khatanga are ones of a town at world's end, its many boats frozen in the ice, awaiting its break up, its huge underground "cellars" dug into the permafrost at the time of the gulag, its mixed population combining early Russian adventurers and the last Siberian nomads. Aboard a Antonov 2 bi-plane, we will visit the Dolgan ; a nomadic tribe of reindeer herdsman inhabiting the Russian Tundra.

Aboard an Antonov 74 or 26, we then set off for the geographic North Pole. We fly over the Taimir Peninsula and fuel up on the

island of Sredny ; a military base of the Sedov archipelago (Severnaya Zemlya). Here, at a latitude of 79°N, the frozen sea stretches out to the very horizon, and a low-lying sun tinges sky and ice with hues characteristic of the extreme





The pack-ice covering it seems as fragile as an eggshell, and yet its thickness is two to four meters. This uneven surface is grooved by numerous pressure ridges, resulting from ice plates crashing together. Deep black free-water leads contrast with the pristine whiteness of this lunar-like landscape. A landing strip appears amidst the icy chaos. Borneo, our drifting base camp lies ahead and welcomes us with its orange tents and amiable staff.

It is now your turn to conquer the North Pole. The six-day's walk which separates you from it will surely be one of the ultimate experiences of your life. With a small group and our guide, you will learn how to navigate by "sun", to evaluate the thickness of a frozen "river", to identify weak points in the towering pressure ridges in order to cross them with ease and to deal with the drift before reaching the oh so coveted Pole.

north. It is here that we enter into the magic of the High Arctic.

The two flight hours necessary to reach our polar base will also introduce you to the vastness of the Arctic Basin.





★ Expedition Itinerary

★ Day 1 and 2

Flight from Moscow to Khatanga - Settling into the hotel. - Guided visit of the town, its port, and its vast underground cellars - Dinner in the company of the Polar Circle Expeditions team.

★ Day 3 and 4

Flight above the Tundra and a visit to the Dolgan who are the last remaining reindeer herdsman still leading a nomadic lifestyle in the Russian Tundra - Overnight stay in Khatanga. - Flight to the polar base of Borneo - Welcome at the base, preparation of equipment and sleds - After an informal meal, drop off by helicopter to the starting point of the expedition - Three-hour of cross-country skiing to try-out equipment and limber up. - First night on the pack-ice.

★ Day 5 to 10

Our skiing rhythm towards the Pole is six hours per day. Every 90 minutes a break is taken to replenish forces - Crossing over pressure ridges, bypassing free water leads, dealing with the drift, the itinerary is never monotonous - Our arrival at the Pole is celebrated as it should; with vodka and Champagne ! Our last expedition night will be spent at the very point representing the geographic North Pole.

★ Day 11 and 12

Return by helicopter to the polar drifting base, and a visit of the base. Notably, its unique landing strip. Return by airplane to Khatanga. Settling into the hotel. Evening and dinner organized to celebrate your victory of the Pole ! Return flight to Moscow and flight home.

We also offer, each April, a parachute jump over the the exact axis of the planet, also available to beginners in tandem. The less adventurous can spend a week at our drifting base and explore the surroundings in a more leisurely fashion.



★ Further Information

The polar ski expedition we propose is open to the general public. Within six days, you will cover approximately 80 kilometers. Led by two professional guides specializing in the Arctic, you will pull your own sled of 25 kg. Each day, you will ski up to six hours, with regular interruptions of 15 to 20 minutes.

Nights will be spent in two-man tents and a group dinner will be taken in a large mess tent.

No specific physical training is required. Persons of all ages have reached the Pole with us. However, you must be in good overall physical condition.

We will provide basic equipment (skis, sleds, tents, stoves, food). We ask that you bring your personal equipment (clothes, boots, sleeping bag) and will be happy to advise you on



your choices however, it is possible to rent any lacking equipment, upon demand.

April offers ideal climatic conditions in this region : permanent daylight and "reasonable" temperature levels (about -25°C) due to a very dry environment, and a high pressure system guaranteeing bright, sunny days!



Adventure Travel



Ski Expeditions



Parachuting and Skydiving



Long-distance Expeditions

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