

Wintergreen Registration & Travel Info

TRIP FEES INCLUDE: all meals, lodging, guides, equipment, taxes and permit fees. The only additional expenses our guests generally incur are transport and clothing rental, if needed. About half of our guests opt to rent some clothing (and spend about \$75 on average).

IF YOU'RE PAYING BY CREDIT CARD: Unless you request otherwise, we'll automatically debit any balance due on this same card 2 months before your trip. Credit card numbers sent by email are kept secure and deleted immediately after final payment. If you prefer, you can provide your credit card number to us by phone. Or you can pay by mailed check -- please be sure we receive your deposit within 5 days of registering and your final payment within 2 months of your trip.

RATES & DEPOSITS: Package rates listed are per adult, in double rooms. Rates for singles requesting private rooms are \$50/night more, if available. Registration involves a \$100/person deposit with balance due 8 weeks before your trip.

DISCOUNTS: RETURNING guests get **\$100 off** any trip, any time (*Welcome back alumni!*) NEW guests who register in June, July, or August get **\$100 off** IF they submit FULL payment upon registration (refundable till Oct 1).

Youth discounts: ages 6-11 get \$200 off, ages 12-17 get \$100 off. Family discount: up to \$300 off/child. Private groups reserving their own "Good" trips (8 or more) or "Better" trips (6 or more) get \$100 off/adult. Discounts are not cumulative—largest will apply.

REFUNDS: All payments are fully refundable until Oct 1. Payments minus \$100 deposit are refundable after Oct 1 and until 2 months before your trip. Within 2 months of your trip, payments are nonrefundable but transferable to another trip.

CANCELLATION INSURANCE: If you're concerned that your trip plans may be subject to change, we strongly recommend you purchase trip cancellation insurance from Travelex Company. It will reimburse you for any non-refundable trip expenses you've incurred in the event a job loss or illness (involving you, a family member, business partner or traveling companion) requires you to cancel. It's reasonably inexpensive (about 5% of your trip cost), kids under 18 are free and it provides some medical benefits. We recommend their "Travel Basic" plan (or "Travel Select" if you're over 60). Call Travelex at 800-228-9792 or enroll at www.travelex-insurance.com

TRAVEL OPTIONS--DRIVING: Our guests who live in the Midwest region (MI,WI,OH,IN,IL,ND,SD,NE,KS,MO) generally choose to drive. Ely is served by good all-weather highway systems (all but the last 50 miles is divided 4-lane). In our 30 years of trips no guests have ever been delayed by road closures. Drive time: 4 hrs from Mpls/St. Paul, 12 hrs from Chicago. 4-wheel drive is not essential.

TRAVEL OPTIONS--FLYING: Delta Airlines (www.delta.com, 800-225-2525) flies Minneapolis/St.Paul (MSP) to DULUTH (8 jet flights/day) and HIBBING (3 turboprop flights/day) as well as Detroit to DULUTH (2 jets/day). United Airlines flies twice daily direct Chicago O'Hare to Duluth. Allegiant Air offers twice weekly direct flights from both Las Vegas and Orlando to Duluth. Afternoon arrival and departure times are best but we're happy to accommodate late night arrivals and early morning departures. Duluth is 2 hours by taxi shuttle service from Ely, Hibbing is just over 1 hour.

FROM Duluth (DLH) or Hibbing (HIB) airports: Book a taxi shuttle to/from your lodge with Ely Shuttle (218-349-1383). Their rates range \$165 to \$55 per person for 1 to 4 or more passengers & can often be split with other Wintergreen guests. Other options are Ely Safe Ride (218-235-7109), Hibbing Taxi (218-263-5065) and Allied Taxi Duluth (218-722-3311). *NOTE: Be sure to book in advance.* Car rental from Duluth airport (all brands) and Hibbing (ACAR 218-348-7446) is also a good option.

FROM Minneapolis/St.Paul(MSP) airport: Ely Shuttle (218-349-1383) is a good option (especially for groups of 5 or more who book their 15-pass. van). So are car rentals, which run about \$40/day (intermediate size, 2-wheel drive is fine). Renting is appealing for those who choose to extend their stay in Minnesota before or after their Wintergreen trip. Various Ely lodges offer discounts for Wintergreen guests and we're happy to recommend discount lodging options for a scenic overnight stay in Duluth or along Minnesota's beautiful North Shore Highway on Lake Superior.

Flying to MSP rather than DLH/HIB: If you don't mind driving (and it's a pleasant, scenic 4-hour drive largely on 4-lane divided highway), flying to MSP and renting a car is the cheaper option. Last season, airfare from east or west coast PLUS car rental totaled about \$400 each for 2 people. And, if you depart from the east or west coast 7-9am, you'll arrive in Ely 4-6pm, which is only slightly later than our guests on the DLH or HIB connecting flights who arrive in Ely by ground shuttle taxi 3-4 pm. Want to avoid driving AND connecting flights? www.SkykineShuttle.com offers 6 van trips/day MSP-DLH (\$75 round trip) where you can connect with a cab to Ely.

EXTEND YOUR STAY: Grand Ely Lodge offers discounted lodging for Wintergreen guest who wish to extend their stay in the Ely area before or after their dogsledding experience. Contact 1-877-GRAND ELY, www.grandelylodge.com & ask for their "Wintergreen" rate.

A FINAL WORD ON FITNESS: The more fit you are, the more fun you'll have on our trips. To enhance your enjoyment, we encourage you to use the anticipation of your trip as an incentive to improve your fitness. Strength is not a crucial factor. What counts is stamina and endurance -- good cardiovascular fitness. This can be achieved at any age. Even persons in "POOR" condition can achieve adequate fitness if (with their doctor's advice) they engage in a half hour of exercise a few times a week the months prior to their trip. Walking, jogging, swimming & biking are all good options. Consider your dogsled vacation an incentive to "get fit for life!"

Upon receiving your registration, we'll send you a confirmation letter. Then we'll mail your our "Trip Kit" packet which includes: info for preparing for your trip, clothing checklist, rental clothing options, info on Ely's International Wolf Center, Travelex trip insurance brochure, our Risk Acknowledgement & Liability Waiver and a form for you to indicate your travel plans & final payment preference. Just before your trip, you'll get an update letter with final details about your trip, guides and guests in your group.

Welcome aboard! We look forward to sharing a Wintergreen experience with you!

Paul & Susan Schurke & the Wintergreen team

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