

Maryland Sled Dog Adventures LLC's Maine Winter Cabin Adventure

Starks, Maine

Note: This is a sample schedule. An actual schedule will be designed based on the number of registered participants and the needs and abilities of the group. An actual schedule will be emailed approximately two to three weeks prior to your Maine Winter Cabin Adventure. Trail conditions will be assessed by Maryland Sled Dog Adventures LLC twenty four hours prior to the program and a decision will be made to use (a) off site trails (20 minutes to one hour away) or (b) on site cabin trails or (c) a combination thereof.

Friday, Day One

1-2 pm: Arrival Time

2-3:00 pm: Unpack/unload vehicles/meet dogs/get dressed to be outside

3-4:30/5:00 pm: Driver's Education: We'll be working on very basic sled driving skills at the cabin in a controlled environment. Setting a snow hook, pulling a hook, braking using the drag, braking using the bar brake, getting a feel for the sled, balancing on the sled, pedaling the sled, and harnessing the dogs.

5:00 pm: Feed the sled dogs

5:00-6:30 pm: Free time. Take a shower, unpack more, relax, chat, read a book, etc.

6:30 pm: Appetizers, Cocktails, Dinner (See separate menu for meals)

8-10 pm: Instruction on basic dog sledding terms/commands, equipment, how to harness dogs, etc. Question and Answer. Getting to know each other.

10:00 pm to ?: Bed time, games, read etc.

Saturday, Day Two

Wake up: 5 am (the Bensons and the dogs), feed and hydrate the dogs

Guest Wake up and Breakfast: 6 am (or until you can no longer stand the racket made by the Bensons and the dogs)

6 am-8 am: Breakfast, shower, dress, load dogs on truck, load gear

8 am: Depart for trail head (if we are using an off-site trail. This will be determined by trail conditions/snow conditions at the time of the program).

9-9:30: Arrive at trail head.

9:00/9:30-10:30: Instruction and practice harnessing dogs, hooking up the equipment, setting the snow hook, review of commands.

Dogsledding (first run): Working on the basics. Setting a hook, using the commands, balancing on the sled, steering the sled, braking, pedaling, etc.

10:30-11:30 am: First person, first run

11:30-12:30 pm: Second person, second run

12:30-1:30 pm: Lunch on the trail at the trail head/Lunch at the Cabin

1:30 to 2:30 pm: Third person, third run

2:30-3:30: Four person, fourth run

4:30 pm: Return to Cabin (if using an off-site trail)

If time, light and conditions permit: Cross country ski, snowshoe, run, walk, take photos, nap, relax, read, shower, etc. at the cabin

5:00 pm: Feed dogs

6:30 pm: Appetizers, cocktails, dinner

8 pm-?: Free time. (Relax, sleep, shower, read, chat, games, etc.)

Sunday, Day Three

5 am: Wake up (the Bensons and the dogs), feed and hydrate the dogs

6-8 am: Breakfast, shower, dress, load dogs, load gear

8 am: Depart for trail head (if we are using an offsite trail. This will be determined by trail conditions/snow conditions at the time of the program)

9-9:30: Arrive at the trail head, harness dogs, hook dogs to sled, etc.

Dogsledding (second run): Continue to work on the basics, perfect commands, learn how to gauge sled distance, speed, when to pedal, when not to pedal, pedaling smoothly, steering, braking, etc.

9:30 to 10:30 am: First run, first person

10:30 to 11:30: Second run, second person

11:30 to 12:30: Third run, third person

12:30-1:30: Lunch on the Trail/Lunch at the Cabin

1:30-2:30: Fourth run, fourth person

3:30 pm: Return to Cabin (if using an off-site trail)

3:30 pm to sundown: Skijor, cross country ski, snowshoe, run, walk, take photo tour, nap, relax, read, shower, etc.

5:00 pm: Feed dogs

6:30 pm: Appetizers, cocktails, dinner

8 pm-?: Free time. Relax, sleep, shower, read, games, etc.

Monday, Day Four

5 am: Wake up (the Bensons and the dogs), feed and hydrate the dogs

6-8 am: Breakfast

9 am-12: Skijor, cross country ski, snowshoe on the cabin trails

Alternative: Possible third dog sledding run on cabin trails if conditions and time permit and basic dog sledding skills are fully mastered. The cabin trail is a challenging trail in the best snow conditions.

12:00 noon-1:00 pm: Lunch

1:00 pm: Depart

If your travel arrangements require you to leave earlier than 1 pm, please let us know two weeks in advance of the program so that we can plan accordingly.