

The Arctic



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Arctic Travel Routes

Travel in the far north is neither cheap nor easy, but it is packed with incredible scenery, wildlife sightings, a vastness of space only dreamed of and a stillness that will calm your soul. In most places you'll have no choice but to fly north, but some regions are accessible by road, and everywhere you'll have the option to raft, canoe and kayak down deserted rivers, hike across kilometres of tundra, climb towering peaks, and dogsled or snowmobile through the long sunny days of spring. You'll need to be prepared, though: a puncture can leave you stranded hundreds of kilometres from the nearest garage, and wilderness trips make the possibility of expensive medical evacuations or encounters with wildlife very real issues.

Travelling across North America you have the choice of two epic road trips taking in fantastic northern peaks, vast national parks and legendary wildlife. Alternatively, fly to remote indigenous communities surrounded by some of the most stunning scenery in all the Arctic and immerse yourself in local culture. In Arctic Scandinavia you can traverse the breadth of Lapland by road, from spectacular coastal fjords and islands across craggy peaks to vast tundra plains; experience the reality of life for modern Sami reindeer herders; or visit the incredible far-flung islands of Svalbard, starting point for many trips to the North Pole. For the adventurous and the thick-skinned, a trip to Arctic Russia brings the prospect of enormous distances across often monotonous territory, difficult access and few facilities, but choose your destinations well and you'll be rewarded by meeting isolated indigenous groups, as well as experiencing incredible fishing and that authentic frontier feel.

The following chapters offer a selection of routes and activities through the vast landscapes of the far north.