

## DOG SLEDDING and ICE FORMATIONS in MICHIGAN'S UPPER PENINSULA

January 20-23, 2021

**\$1,210 PER PERSON (single occupancy), \$2,210 per couple (double occupancy)**



### Tour Inclusions:

- Drive or ride with sled dog team
- Three nights of lodging at Chamberlin's Ole Forest Inn in Curtis, MI.
- Welcome Dinner and Nature's Kennel Presentation
- Breakfast each morning
- Dinner each night
- Lunch at Tahquamenon Falls Brewery
- Snowshoe hike at Tahquamenon Falls State Park
- Exploration of Tahquamenon Upper Falls
- Munising Falls and Eben Ice Caves exploration/hike
- Lunch at the Falling Rock Café in Munising
- Transportation from Chamberlin's Ole Forest Inn to all excursions during the tour

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, items of a personal nature, alcoholic drinks, and meals not mentioned in the tour inclusions.



Nature's Kennel, Michigan's premier dog sledding destination, is owned by Michigan State alums Ed Stielstra '91, Lyman Briggs College and Tasha Stielstra '98, College of Education. Nature's Kennel is located in the Eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan and is home to 160 magnificent Alaskan Huskies. Both Ed and Tasha are well-accomplished mushers and Ed has completed eight Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Races.

This unique winter adventure offers you the opportunity to drive your own dog team or to take a ride with the sled dogs of Nature's Kennel. Also included is a presentation about Nature's Kennel and how Ed and Tasha went from MSU graduates to business owners. You will go behind the scenes as you learn about this extremely unique business. You will also have the opportunity to enjoy a bit of Upper Peninsula winter splendor with a trip to Tahquamenon Falls State Park where Park Naturalist and MSU alum Theresa Neal '03 will lead you on a private snowshoe hike. You will also learn about the Eben Ice Caves and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore from MSU alum Steve Tchozeski '77 of Great Lakes Geoscience.



**For reservations or further information, call Nature's Kennel at 906-748-0513**

## Trip Itinerary:

### Wednesday, January 20th

#### **6:00 pm Welcome reception at Chamberlin's Ole Forest Inn**

Appetizers and wine will be served around the lobby fireplace followed by dinner in the private dining area.

#### **6:30 pm Dinner at Chamberlin's Ole Forest Inn**

Following dinner, you will get an introduction to Nature's Kennel Sled Dog Adventures and Racing Team with owner Tasha Stielstra. She will give a short presentation about Nature's Kennel Sled Dogs and her and Ed's participation in sled dog races around the world.

### Thursday, January 21st

#### **7:30 am Breakfast at Chamberlin's Ole Forest Inn**

#### **9:00 am Dog Sledding at Nature's Kennel**

Try your hand at mushing your own team or take a ride in the dog sled. The dog sledding trip is designed for beginners. You will meet our fabulous guides and learn the instructions necessary to mush your own five-dog team on the scenic ten mile trail. Or, if you prefer, you can ride in the sled with the guide. Please let Tasha know your preference for participating as a rider or driver when you make your reservation.

#### **1:00 pm Lunch at Tahquamenon Falls Brewery, Tahquamenon Falls State Park**

There will be a limited menu to choose from. Beer will also be available at an additional cost.

#### **2:00 pm Snowshoe Hike with Tahquamenon Falls State Park Naturalist Theresa Neal '03**

Enjoy a scenic snowshoe hike at Tahquamenon Falls State Park (snowshoes and instruction provided). Theresa will talk about the park's history and winter in the Upper Peninsula. You will also have time to explore the Upper Falls of Tahquamenon Falls on your own or as part of a guided hike.

#### **6:00 pm Dinner at Chamberlin's Ole Forest Inn**

Enjoy dinner and relax in front of the giant fireplace after a great day of winter activities. Following dinner, you will have a brief introduction to the unique geologic features of the Eastern Upper Peninsula in preparation for touring the Munising area on Friday.

### Friday, January 22nd

#### **8:00 am Breakfast at Chamberlin's Ole Forest Inn.**

**9:00 am departure to Munising\*\*** Steve Tchozeski of Great Lakes Geoscience will accompany this portion of the tour as we explore the beautiful frozen waterfalls and sandstone outcroppings of the Munising area. Weather permitting, we will spend the day exploring the local ice formations, Twin Falls, and Munising Falls. Lunch will be at the Falling Rock Café in Munising before heading out on a short afternoon hike. We will do our best to select hikes that are scenic, safe, and within the capabilities of the group.

**\*\*Note: Hiking this day includes a considerable amount of mildly strenuous walking on difficult and slippery terrain but does not require special climbing equipment or snowshoes.**

#### **6:00 pm Dinner at Chamberlin's Ole Forest Inn**

Enjoy a fantastic dinner and relax in front of the giant fireplace after another great day of winter activities. We will have a slide show to highlight the week's activities and share our stories.

### Saturday, January 23rd

#### **8 am-11 am Breakfast at Chamberlin's Ole Forest Inn**

Departure at your leisure.

**Accommodations:** Enjoy three nights of lodging at Chamberlin's Ole Forest Inn in Curtis. Chamberlin's is nestled high on a bluff overlooking Big Manistique Lake in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. This incredible lakeside country inn offers charming accommodations and casual fine dining. Rich in history, this gracious 7500 square ft., 19th century-style lakeside dwelling was built by a railroad company to serve as a passenger hotel near the Curtis train station. More than one hundred years later the inn continues to embrace travelers with warmth, comfortable lodging and stunning views.



**Included meals:** There will be a private welcome dinner and program at Chamberlin's on Wednesday night, dinner on Thursday and Friday evenings and full breakfasts on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Thursday lunch will be at the Tahquamenon Falls Brewery and Friday lunch will be at Falling Rock Cafe in Munising. If you have special dietary needs, notify Tasha. All restaurants are spacious enough to provide adequate space for a group and adequate distancing for each couple/individual if necessary.

**Getting there:** Air transportation is available to Marquette, MI (Sawyer International Airport) or Sault Ste. Marie (Chippewa County Airport). Both airports have rental cars available.

**Transportation during the tour:** Transportation is available to and from all locations (Chamberlin's, Nature's Kennel, Tahquamenon Falls, and Munising). If you prefer to drive your own vehicle, we will provide maps and you can easily follow the caravan.

**Cost:** \$1,210 per person, single occupancy or \$2,210 per couple, double occupancy. Gratuities included.

**Payment:** A 50% deposit is required at the time of reservation. The balance of the trip is due on January 20<sup>th</sup> when you come for your adventure. Payment may be made via all major credit cards or personal check.

**Cancellation policy:** In the unlikely event the trip is canceled due to weather conditions, a full refund will be issued. If participant(s) request a cancellation, the deposit will be refunded if request is made more than three weeks before the start of the trip.

**Reservations:** To make your reservation, contact Tasha Stielstra, Nature's Kennel 906-748-0513 or [info@natureskennel.com](mailto:info@natureskennel.com). Please note this trip is limited to 10 participants. The trip must have a minimum of 6 participants to operate. If the minimum is not met by December 28th, deposits will be refunded.

**Gear:** Bring warm gear for the dog sledding trip as there is a constant breeze when the sled is moving. Insulated/snow pants, a warm parka/jacket, winter boots, mittens and lightweight gloves (gloves are nice when hooking up the dogs), are all suggested. If riding in the sled, blankets will be provided. Warm winter boots are available for loan if needed at no charge. The same gear can be worn for snowshoeing and hiking to the caves but it is highly suggested you bring along a pair of YakTrax for walking along the trail and into the caves (these snow/ice cleats are available at most outdoor stores, <https://www.yaktrax.com/>).

**For reservations or further information, call Nature's Kennel at 906-748-0513**

## Contact information:

- Nature's Kennel Sled Dog Adventures, 906-748-0513, [www.natureskennel.com](http://www.natureskennel.com)
- Chamberlin's Ole Forest Inn, 906-586-6000, [www.chamberlinsinn.com](http://www.chamberlinsinn.com)
- Tahquamenon Falls State Park, [www.mi.gov/tfallseducation](http://www.mi.gov/tfallseducation)

## Suggested Marquette hotels if flying into Sawyer International airport:

- Landmark Inn, 906-228-2580, <http://thelandmarkinn.com>
- Hampton Inn Waterfront, 906-228-6001, <http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com>

**Nature's Kennel Wellness Statement:** As we all navigate through the new reality of Coronavirus, Nature's Kennel is fortunate that there have been very few cases of COVID19 in our county thus far and in the Upper Peninsula as a whole. As there's always a risk anytime you leave home, we have adjusted our practices, policies and procedures to maintain a low risk environment for all of our guests, staff and family. While no one can totally eliminate the risk of the virus, will do our best to adapt to these challenging times and continue to provide an exceptional vacation experience. The majority of this trip takes place outside with a small group and during any inside programs or meals there is adequate spacing for individual tables.



## Travel Disclaimer:

The Michigan State University Alumni Office (the MSU Alumni Office) is not the Tour Operator. The MSU Alumni Office is not responsible for the changes of flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel or motor coach transportation and car rental reservations, delays, losses, injuries, inconveniences, cessation of operations, airline or tour operator bankruptcies, acts of God, or any other event beyond our control. The MSU Alumni Office acts only as an agent for the participants with respect to travel services, and it shall not be responsible for changes to flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel or other reservations, injury, damage, loss of baggage, accidents or for the acts or defaults of any person or entity engaged in conveying participants or in carrying out other arrangements of the tour. Further the MSU Alumni Office shall not be responsible for losses or additional expenses of the participant due to sickness, weather, strike, civil unrest, acts of terrorism, pandemic, quarantine, acts of God, governmental intervention or other causes beyond its control. The MSU Alumni Office shall not be responsible for alteration in the itinerary as deemed necessary for carrying out the tour and the right is reserved to substitute hotels of similar quality. The right is further reserved to postpone or cancel any tour prior to departure. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of the tour should such person's physical or mental health, actions or general deportment impede the operation of the tour or the rights or welfare of the other participants. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour. Applicants for participation on this tour accept in full all the conditions set forth above.



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