

DOG SLEDDING and ICE FORMATIONS in MICHIGAN'S UPPER PENINSULA

March 2-5, 2025

\$1,600 PER PERSON

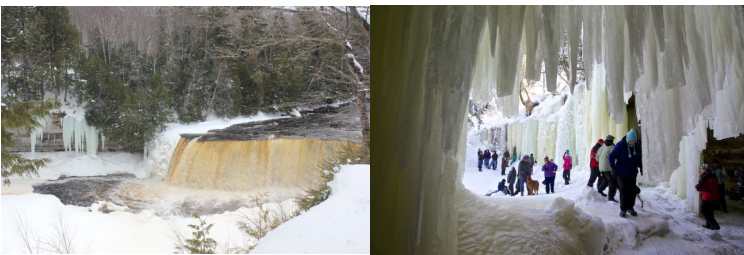


Tour Inclusions:

- 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 Driftwood Deli 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.

"This is an absolute "must do" trip if you like dogs and have any desire to try dog sledding. The tour far exceeded our expectations...we could not have been more pleased with all the activities, the food, the lodging, everything!!"



Nature's Kennel, Michigan's premier dog sledding destination is located in the Eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan and is home to 150 magnificent Alaskan Huskies. The tour is led by Tasha Stielstra '98, MSU College of Education. Both she and her husband Ed are Spartans and are well-accomplished mushers. 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 kennel and how the Stielstra's went from MSU graduates to business owners. You'll have the opportunity to enjoy a bit of Upper Peninsula winter splendor with a trip to Tahquamenon Falls State Park where you will be led on a private snowshoe hike. You will also learn about the delicate balance between wolves, moose, humans and nature from Isabella Evavold, the lead biologist of the Isle Royale Wolf Study.



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

Trip Itinerary:

Sunday, March 2nd

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 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.

Monday, March 3rd

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 the 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

Enjoy a scenic snowshoe hike at Tahquamenon Falls State Park (snowshoes and instruction provided). There will also be 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 hear from lead biologist, Isabella Evavold, as she presents on her work over the last 10 years on Isle Royale and the balance between the Isle Royale wolves and other wildlife, humans and nature. Following the presentation, relax in front of the giant fireplace after a great day of winter activities.



Tuesday, March 4th

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

9:00 am departure to Munising**

Weather permitting, spend the day exploring the local ice formations, Twin Falls, and Munising Falls. Lunch will be at the Driftwood Deli in Munising before heading out on a short afternoon hike. Hikes will be selected 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, although ice cleats are recommended for walking on ice.

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.

Wednesday, March 5th

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.



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Included meals: There will be a private welcome dinner and program at Chamberlin's on Sunday night, dinner on Monday and Tuesday evenings and full breakfasts on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Monday lunch will be at the Tahquamenon Falls Brewery and Tuesday lunch will be at Driftwood Deli in Munising. If you have special dietary needs, please let them know when making your reservation. 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, maps will be provided and you can easily follow the caravan.

Cost: \$1,600 per person. Gratuities included.

Payment: A 50% deposit is required at the time of reservation. The balance of the trip is due on March 2nd 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 participants 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@naureskennel.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 February 2nd, 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 and ice cleats will be provided.

Contact information:

- Nature's Kennel Sled Dog Adventures, 906-748-0513, www.natureskennel.com
- Chamberlin's Ole Forest Inn, 906-586-6000, www.chamberlinsinn.com
- Tahquamenon Falls State Park, 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 continue to navigate through the new reality of COVID-19, 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.



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Michigan State University Alumni Office Disclaimer Spartan Pathways Travel Program:

The Michigan State University Alumni Office (the MSU Alumni Office or MSUAO) and the Spartan Pathways Travel Program is not the Tour Operator. The MSUAO 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 MSUAO acts only as a sponsor with respect to the 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 providing services to participants or in carrying out other arrangements of the tour. Further, the MSUAO shall not be responsible for losses or additional expenses of the participant due to sickness, weather, strike, civil unrest, acts of terrorism, pandemic, epidemic, quarantine, acts of God, governmental intervention, or other causes beyond its control. The MSUAO shall not be responsible for alteration in the itinerary as deemed necessary for carrying out the tour and the Tour Operator may substitute hotels of similar quality. The Tour Operator may postpone or cancel any tour prior to departure. The MSUAO or the Tour Operator may 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. By embarking upon travel, the participant voluntarily assumes all risk involved in such travel, whether expected or unexpected. Participant is hereby warned of the above risks as well as possible travel industry force majeure, bankruptcies and medical and climatic disruptions, and the possibility participant may be unable to travel as scheduled because of personal emergency. Participant is advised to consider obtaining appropriate insurance coverage against these risks. Applicants for participation on this tour accept in full all the conditions set forth above. The MSUAO partners with other universities and alumni from other universities will be on many departures. While some of the Spartan Pathway's tours are exclusive to just MSU alumni, on many of the tours we partner with other universities/ organizations that have travel programs. Therefore, some departures may have universities with greater numbers of alumni on the tour than MSU.



"Great winter adventure! Dog sledding with Natures Kennel was the best!"

"I was intrigued by such a unique opportunity, to try dog sledding, and see the Ice Caves. The MSU connection added a sense of comradery."



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