

Alaska Iditarod Tours

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Alaska Iditarod Tours' 9-Day Nome Finish Tour

Dates: March 10 – March 18

Itinerary:

Day One Sunday : Welcome to the Bering Sea and historic Nome Alaska! Clients arrive into historic Nome Alaska on their own flights. Tour leader will be there to meet you at the airport and bring you to your accommodation. Famous for the Nome Gold Rush of 1898 that saw the population balloon to over 10,000, this rugged town of 3,500 on the coast of Norton Sound is still a magnet for the adventurous and those with gold fever. Even during the winter, evidence of active gold mining can be seen out on the frozen sea where underwater exploration takes place under the sea ice. Clients will be on their own for meals today.

Day Two Monday : With the Iditarod Race finish getting closer, you will be excited and primed for your dog mushing excursion with The Dog Lot Kennel. Here is an opportunity to see sled dogs up close, watch how experienced dog handlers interact with the dogs and appreciate how fast and powerful a team of sled dogs are as you negotiate the winding trail with your dog team handler. Later we will get a greater appreciation for the history of Nome with a guided tour at the Nome Museum and the Cultural Center at 12:00 pm and will also visit the Native Arts and Craft Fair with fine examples of fur hats, mittens gloves, ivory carving etc... by local artists. (Continental Breakfast, Dinner)

Day Three Tuesday : Today is the day that the Nome party usually clicks into high gear as the leaders approach the finish line. In the afternoon we will visit the Nome Museum and listen to an informative talk about the history of the Iditarod Race presented by Howard Farley. Howard was one of the organizers of the Iditarod Race and one of the first mushers to run the race. Late evening or early Wednesday morning is when the 1st musher usually arrives in Nome and we will be there to cheer on the top finishers as they cross the finish. You will be amazed at how energetic these champion teams are as they strut their

stuff down Front St. to claim their place in Iditarod history. (Continental Breakfast, Dinner)

Day Four Wednesday: Morning flight along the coast of the Bering Sea to the picturesque village of White Mountain. This is a great opportunity to watch mushers care for their teams as they take a mandatory 8 hour layover. (Continental Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day Five Thursday : Today clients will take a scenic helicopter ride to the Safety Roadhouse checkpoint. This 90-minute ride along the coast is always the highlight of the tour as it gives us more opportunities to view the mushers heading to Nome along the Iditarod Trail and at the roadhouse. We often spot muskox in the surrounding hills on this flight. Your flight time will be determined on Wednesday. When not taking the helicopter ride we will cheer on teams as they come under the Burl Arch to finish their race. (Continental Breakfast, Dinner)

Day Six Friday : Today we will get a feel for the history of Nome on a guided tour with local resident Carol Gales of Roam Nome. This informative tour will show you interesting points around town, such as Gold Dredge #7 and will explore Nome's vibrant gold mining history. See why the Nome Gold Rush drew such noted personalities such as Wyatt Earp to its shores. With a history of settlement for thousands of years by the Inupiat people of Alaska, and headquarters for the Sitnasuak Native Village Corporation and the Bering Straits Regional Native Corporation, Nome is a perfect place to see the integration of modern society into the lives of its traditional inhabitants. Clients will continue cheering arriving dog teams as they cross the finish line. (Continental Breakfast, Dinner)

Day Seven Saturday : Saturday morning is when clients can attend the musher meet and greet for autographs and photos. Listen to their informative stories about what it takes to run the Iditarod and unique experiences they might have had on the trail. Clients can also participate in teams AIT will organize for the Bering Ice Golf Classic, definitely the most unusual and challenging course you will ever play. Mushers will still be arriving into Nome and this is your last chance to pick up that beautiful fur hat, muskox scarf or incredibly warm fur mittens you have been admiring at the Art and Craft Fair.(Continental Breakfast, Dinner)

Day Eight Sunday : St Patrick's Day!!! Each year our client's join the community in Celebrating St Patricks Day by participating in the parade down Front St. to the Burl Arch. Later in the afternoon we will attend the Iditarod Finishers and Awards Banquet, recognizing mushers for their accomplishments during the race. This is a great opportunity to get a more personal understanding of the mushers and their experiences along the trail. You will hear fantastic stories as the mushers tell their tales from the race. (Continental Breakfast, Dinner)

Day Nine Monday : Clients return to Anchorage on their own flights.

Getting around Nome: AIT will shuttle clients around as time and our schedule allow, but most clients walk around town or use one of the many taxis to get around.

Physical Requirements for this tour:

In Nome- The streets and sidewalks of Nome are always icy. It is recommended you wear grippers on your boots while walking around town. Clients staying at the Sluicebox Inn have a ½ mile walk to the finish line on Front St.

In White Mountain- The airport runway is on a hill 1/2 mile from the checkpoint. There is no cab service and clients should plan on walking this distance. We will try to secure rides for those that need them by paying people to shuttle us on their snowmobiles, but it is not something we can guarantee.