

LUXURY ADVENTURES

Exploratory Series 2008

Winter Ice

by land



IN SEARCH OF THE PERFECT GEMSTONE

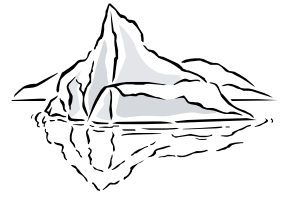


There is no more romantic experience on earth than sleeping on spruce bows beside a wood-burning stove in an authentic prospector's tent under the shimmering Northern Lights. The swish of your dogsled, a private wilderness camp for two, a luxurious post and beam lodge, a bush plane flight across the permafrost – join us on this journey through the magnificent Canadian wilderness on a quest for the perfect diamond.



Ultimate Escapes
LUXURY DESTINATION CLUBS

The Trip



IMMERSE YOUR SENSES...

SEE

the sky come alive with ghostly colours as you view the Aurora Borealis from Blachford Lodge, the best viewing spot in the world.

SMELL

the rich aromas of your lake trout as it roasts over the open fire in your private wooded camp.

TASTE

a succulent morsel of caribou braised in red wine as it melts in your mouth during a romantic fireside dinner.

TOUCH

the rough surface of a raw diamond and hold it up to the cutting blade as you begin the process of crafting your own personal gemstone.

HEAR

the muted sounds of snow crunching underfoot as the eager dogs carry your sled across the ice field of Great Slave Lake.

DAY 1 - (SUNDAY) – YELLOWKNIFE/BLACHFORD LAKE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.
Fly into Yellowknife, the capital of the Northwest Territories on the remote shores of Great Slave Lake. At the airport, meet your private guide for a tour of the city. Take in the old town's vestiges of gold-rush history as you wander the tangled streets of rustic wooden shacks, stop to chat with the friendly locals, and then enjoy a leisurely lunch in the old town. This evening, board your charter bush plane (outfitted with skis for the winter in order to land on snow and ice) for the flight into the wilderness from Yellowknife and travel to the magnificent post-and-beam masterpiece that is Blachford Lake Lodge, one of the Arctic's best fly-in wilderness lodges. Settle in to your luxurious room and then toast your day's activities in front of a blazing fire with a glass of champagne while you admire the lodge's collection of historic photos and local artefacts. Relax over dinner in the cozy and elegant dining room and enjoy the local delicacies of Canada's North, ranging from poached Arctic char to pepper-crust tenderloin of bison. **Hotel - Blachford Lake Lodge. Meals - LD.**

DAY 2 – (MONDAY) – BLACHFORD LAKE/WILDERNESS CAMP, NWT
Sleep late beneath the warmth of a luxurious down duvet, enjoy a hearty breakfast, and then stroll the groomed nature trails through the surrounding forest, try your hand at ice fishing, sample the cross-country skiing trails or take a spin on the natural ice rink on the lake. If you are feeling especially inspired, grab a cured seal skin and head for the nearest hill to sample the sport of tobogganing in its original form. In the afternoon, bundle up in specially-provided winter expedition gear and set out from Blachford beneath the blankets on a traditional dogsled with your personal guide and dog-musher. Skim silently across the frozen lakes and through hushed forests, spotting wildlife ranging from barrenland caribou and elegant mink to the elusive red fox and fierce wolverine. Arrive at your own private campground where your guide will set up camp and start the fire in your insulated prospector's tent. Take a walk through the silent snow and then warm up by the fire with a cocktail while your chef prepares a sumptuous meal of local delicacies. Tonight, gaze up at the most spectacular natural lightshow, the Northern Lights, from their most dramatic vantage point, and then retire to the comfort of your double down sleeping bags laid out on a soft bed of spruce bows and caribou skins. **Hotel - Luxury Wilderness Camp. Meals - BLD.**

DAY 3 - (TUESDAY) – WILDERNESS CAMP/BLACHFORD LODGE, NWT
Sleep late and wake to the sounds of ptarmigans chortling and ravens cawing in the woods. After a campfire breakfast, try your skills at snowshoeing as you explore the deep and silent forest with your guide, searching for animal tracks in the snow and learning about the delicate ecological balance in the North. After lunch, fine-tune your ability to steer the dogsled as you return to your wilderness oasis of Blachford Lodge. Recover from a day of active adventure with a glass of wine in the outdoor hot tub or ease your muscles with a dry sauna before enjoying another delicious gourmet meal and a restful sleep. **Hotel - Blachford Lake Lodge. Meals - BLD.**

LOCAL DIVERSIONS...

CULINARY DELIGHTS

After an invigorating day of snowshoeing in the crisp arctic air, reward yourself with a fine array of tempting regional dishes: a roasted rack of venison with cranberry compote, braised caribou medallions in a sherry reduction, and grilled lake trout that was caught earlier that day by your own hand.

FUN FACTS

Diamonds are a crystalline form of carbon, known for their superlative gemological qualities of hardness and dispersion of light. They are mined from rare volcanic pipes, where deep-origin volcanoes drawing material from over 90 miles deep within the Earth have deposited them.

WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS

Fly low in your small ski-plane from Blachford to Yellowknife and observe the variety of wildlife roaming their natural habitat. See a frozen lake filled with migrating caribou and watch for martins and minks slinking silently through the underbrush. Catch site of a lone wolf as it lopes through the forest in search of its pack and surprise the cheeky snow bunting as it rests on a frost-covered branch.

DAY 4 - (WEDNESDAY) - BLACHFORD LAKE LODGE/YELLOWKNIFE, NWT

Talk the kitchen staff into serving breakfast in bed, and then spend the morning at leisure in the lodge. Curl up in the lounge with a long neglected book, check out the traditional tipi on the grounds, take a walk through the woods, or simply sit before the fire with a mug of hot chocolate and the backgammon board. After lunch, board your private bush plane and depart for Yellowknife. Keep an eye out for wildlife on the flight and consider a diversion to land on a frozen lake in the middle of a vast wilderness to see a herd of migratory caribou up close and personal. In Yellowknife, check into your elegant room at the comfortable Explorer hotel (the best in town) and spend the rest of the evening at leisure exploring this fascinating diamond capital. Dine tonight overlooking the lakes and sample the local delicacies such as bison, musk-ox, caribou and arctic char. Return to your room to relax in the bath or head out on the town to sample some of the local entertainment. **Hotel - Explorer Hotel. Meals - BL.**

DAY 5 - (THURSDAY) - YELLOWKNIFE, NWT

Visit the world-renowned Aurora College for a brief and fascinating education on diamonds from Mike Botha, a transplanted South African and one of Canada's leading diamond cutters and educators. Let Mike bring to life the journey of these precious gems from their mineral origins to their mining, and finally the process that transforms them from a dull gravel stone into a brilliant lustrous jewel. Roll up your sleeves and experience the first steps in cutting a diamond by taking a rough crystal and cutting the first eight primary facets. After a leisurely lunch on your own visit the diamond factory and meet your own personal diamond consultant for a tour, demonstration and laser engraving of your "loose stone". Discover the different cuts and carats of diamonds and conceive your ideal design and setting for your future jewel. Finish the unique journey of your diamond from rough, lacklustre pebble to sparkling masterpiece by choosing the design and having your name laser-engraved for eternity on the base of the stone before it is registered with Gemprint for insurance and legacy purposes. Over dinner, mull over your days activities and contemplate your diamond creation. After dinner, head out of town to Aurora world and enjoy a final opportunity to watch the magical Northern Lights illuminate the vast horizon. **Hotel - Explorer Hotel. Meals - B.**

DAY 6 (FRIDAY) - YELLOWKNIFE/HOME

After breakfast, drop by the fine jewellers at the Gallery of the Midnight Sun to peruse the exquisite jewellery, northern furs and soapstones. Enjoy a casual lunch in the old town. In the afternoon, say your goodbyes to the Canadian north and transfer to the Yellowknife airport for your flight home. **Meals - B**

The Details

Level of Activity: *Moderate* - Strolling through city streets, walking on forest paths, dog sledding, optional snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, ice fishing, etc. Suitable for all ages and abilities, with some opportunities for extended walks and other winter activities.

Start: Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

Finish: Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

What's Included:

- 1 night at Blachford's Luxury Wilderness Camp
- 2 nights at the luxurious Explorer Hotel on a shared twin/double room basis
- 2 nights at Blachford Lake Lodge on a shared twin/double room basis with shared washroom
- 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners
- all bush-plane flights
- all local transfers and baggage handling
- all local experts and specialists
- all entrance fees and tours
- all special events and on-trip surprises
- all pre-departure materials, including document wallet and destination details

Trip Operator: **Horizon & Co.** (founded in 1963), is Canada's leading boutique travel company. Horizon designs and stages authentic and deeply personal travel experiences that are carefully choreographed to induce a life-long memory. In addition to offering published trips on seven continents, Horizon builds private custom trips for discerning individuals and small groups.

Trip Format: **Independent Trips** are designed for independent-minded travellers who like to travel on their own (without a Horizon escort), but still want to experience our superbly designed itineraries at reasonable prices. The itinerary and prices are always fixed, and the departure dates may be flexible or fixed depending on the specific trip.

Dates & Prices

DURATION

5 NIGHTS / 6 DAYS

DATES

JAN - APR

PRICES

FROM \$4,850



BOOK YOUR TRIP...

Jim Bruce

Bruce World of Travel

60 St.Clair Avenue E.

Toronto, ON M4T 1N5

tel: 416-923-7337

info@bruceworldtravel.com

www.bruceworldtravel.com