



Polar Circle Polar Bear Challenge Packages

26 & 27 October 2024

The Polar Bear Challenge will have you competing in the Marathon on the Saturday and the Half Marathon on the Sunday. Complete both and you receive 3 medals including the Polar Bear medal.

This event is often referred to as “the coolest marathon on earth” and takes place in Kangerlussuaq, Greenland, just north of the Polar Circle. Ice and arctic tundra of this vast country make up the backdrop of this unusual race.

Runners pass glacier tongues, moraine landscapes and the soundless, arctic desert. A part of the route takes place on the 100,000-year-old ice cap, but the main part of the course is run on the gravel road, often covered in snow. This is a rare opportunity to visit one of the most remote corners of the world combined with a unique race.



BASIC PACKAGE		5 DAYS / 4 NIGHTS
DAY 1	24 OCT	Arrive Kangerlussuaq and Day Excursions
DAY 2	25 OCT	Route Inspection and Pasta Dinner
DAY 3	26 OCT	Polar Circle Marathon Race Day
DAY 4	27 OCT	Polar Circle Half & Celebration Dinner
DAY 5	28 OCT	Depart Kangerlussuaq

OLD CAMP		
PRICES PER PERSON	TWIN SHARE	SINGLE ROOM
RUNNER	\$5080 AUD	\$5578 AUD
SUPPORTER	\$4182 AUD	\$4681 AUD

POLAR LODGE (ON REQUEST)		
PRICES PER PERSON	TWIN SHARE	SINGLE ROOM
RUNNER	\$5249 AUD	\$6036 AUD
SUPPORTER	\$4352 AUD	\$5139 AUD

HOTEL KANGERLUSSUAQ		
PRICES PER PERSON	TWIN SHARE	SINGLE ROOM
RUNNER	\$5757 AUD	\$6944 AUD
SUPPORTER	\$4860 AUD	\$6046 AUD

PACKAGES INCLUDE:

- Guaranteed Race Entry (for runners)
- Return airfares and taxes Copenhagen to Kangerlussuaq
- 4 night's accommodation at your chosen hotel
Check-in 24 Oct / Check-out 28 Oct
- Meals as per itinerary
- 3 hour guided hike to Mt Hassel
- Route Inspection on the Icecap
- Transfers to race start (runners only)
- English speaking Tour Leader
- Celebration Dinner and Awards Ceremony
- Personalised Travelling Fit Running Top
Exclusive to Travelling Fit Clients
- Invite to Travelling Fit's Polar Circle Marathon Closed Facebook Group
Exclusive to Travelling Fit Clients

Please Refer to Detailed Itinerary for important information and optional excursions

To book or for more information contact Travelling Fit... Your Running Tours Specialists
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Please Note: All prices are quoted in Australian dollars and are based on a per person basis.
Prices and itinerary are subject to change at any time without prior notice.

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Polar Circle Detailed Itinerary

24 to 28 October 2024



IMPORTANT: Due to early/late flight times in and out of Copenhagen to Kangerlussuaq, we strongly recommend that you purchase pre and post nights in Copenhagen. Please speak to our sales team for further information.

Day 1 – Thursday 24 October: Flight to Kangerlussuaq – Arrival Day and Optional Excursions

All participants meet in Terminal 2 at Copenhagen Airport. A 4.5hr flight will bring you to Kangerlussuaq and arrive in the morning. Approximately 500 people make up the permanent population of this township, which was established by the American army during the Second World War and handed over to the Government of Greenland in 1992.

Upon arrival, check in at Polar Lodge, Old Camp or Hotel Kangerlussuaq. The tour leaders will give a brief welcome at each hotel before the departure of the optional excursions (see optional excursion flyer for details).

For those who have not booked an optional excursion it is possible to follow the tour leader on a hike to Mount Hassel. The guided walk is a 2-3 hour hike that follows the ridge eastwards towards the inland ice. The higher you go the more beautiful it gets and, weather permitting, you will have a fantastic panoramic view from the fjord to the inland ice. If there is too much snow/ice the tour leaders will try to find an alternative route at a lower level.

In the evening dinner will be served at Restaurant Roklubben

A meal on-board the flight, lunch at your hotel and dinner is included today.

Day 2 – Friday 25 October: Route Inspection

Today, everyone will depart for the route inspection in the morning to get an idea of the challenge it is to run on the ice cap. Spectators will also participate in the tour and can use the day as a sightseeing trip to the Greenland Ice Sheet.

The inspection tour heads 35km east of the airport to Point 660 from where participants will walk the marked route on the ice cap. Note that this will be a cold walk in freezing temperatures and a warm winter jacket, ski pants or similar, hiking or winter boots, hat and gloves are essential. Runners may want to bring their running shoes to test run in the conditions, but it is advisable to bring other, warmer footwear too.

You will be driven in large all-terrain vehicles, which will take you along Watson River through the fantastic landscape varying from lakes, fertile moor, and dense scrub to large stretches of dunes and rock devoid of vegetation.

The road from Kangerlussuaq to the ice cap was originally built by German carmaker Volkswagen who had a testing center on the ice and needed easy access from the harbour in Kangerlussuaq to the extreme conditions on the ice cap. The testing center, however, is now closed and the road is now under the supervision of Sisimiut Municipality. The condition of the road is therefore not as good as it has been, but more like an adventure marathon route. The access to the ice cap has also declined over the years, partly because of lesser maintenance and partly because of the retraction of the ice cap over the past years.

Finally, you arrive at the edge of the ice cap at Point 660 where the vehicles will be parked, and you walk on to the ice cap itself. It is a great experience to feel the massive cold air from the ice, taste the pure crystal-clear air and listen to the deafening silence. You suddenly realise that Greenland is in a category by itself.

In the evening, all runners gather at Hotel Kangerlussuaq for the race briefing where the race officials and medical team will give the final information briefing about the marathon and half marathon races. If you wish to change distance* or make late registration for the Polar Bear Challenge* this is also the time to do it. It is not possible to make late registration to the Polar Bear Challenge after the marathon race on Saturday.

*Both the marathon and half marathon are each limited to 150 runners, so change of distance and registration for the Polar Bear Challenge will be subject to availability and on a first come, first served basis.

After the race briefing a pasta dinner is served at Hotel Kangerlussuaq.

Breakfast, sandwich lunch, and pasta dinner is included today.

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Day 3 – Saturday 26 October: Marathon Race Day

At 7:00 in the morning the Marathon and Polar Bear Challenge runners are transferred to the starting point near the inland ice, using all-terrain vehicles to get there. The marathon is scheduled to start at 8:30am and has a time limit of 7 hours.

The marathon finish line will be located in front of the Polar Lodge. From here runners staying at Polar Lodge and Hotel Kangerlussuaq can walk to their rooms while a bus will take runners staying at Old Camp to their rooms.

The runners will be offered water and refreshments at stations posted along the route. In the finish area a BBQ lunch will be served for all participants between 12:00 pm and 3:30 pm.

Half marathon runners and supporters can spend the day exploring the area on their own but are also encouraged to cheer on the runners at the finish line. It is not possible to go to the start line to cheer the runners off, as the all-terrain vehicles are in full use.

In the evening dinner a semi-pasta dinner will be served at Hotel Kangerlussuaq.

Breakfast, BBQ lunch, and semi-pasta dinner is included today.

Day 4 – Sunday 27 October: Half Marathon Race Day and Celebration Dinner

At 7:00 in the morning Half Marathon and Polar Bear Challenge runners drive to the starting point near the inland ice, using all-terrain vehicles to get there. The half marathon is scheduled to start at 8:30am and have a time limit of 4 hours.

At the finish line the all-terrain vehicles will be waiting to take all runners back to Kangerlussuaq as they fill up. The last vehicle departs when the last runner has finished. The runners will be offered water and refreshments at stations posted along the route. In the finish area a light lunch will be provided.

Full marathon runners and supporters can spend the day going on an optional excursion or explore the area on their own. It is not possible to go along the route nor finish line to cheer, as all the all-terrain vehicles are in use for the half marathon.

In the evening, everyone will join in to celebrate the completion of the Polar Circle Marathon and Half Marathon with a festive Greenlandic dinner in Roklubben. Awards ceremony for the top three finishers in each category will also take place before the party under a (hopefully) northern lights lit sky sets off.

Breakfast and celebration dinner are included today. In addition, participants running the half marathon/Polar Bear Challenge are provided with a post-race light lunch.

Day 5 – Monday 28 October: Farewell Greenland

After breakfast and check out you will travel back to Copenhagen. The flight leaves just before noon, so you get a final opportunity to enjoy a last stroll or jog around Kangerlussuaq.

Arrival in Copenhagen is in the evening (CET). Once again please note that we strongly discourage same day connections from Copenhagen due to the late arrival from Greenland and the fact that luggage cannot be checked in all the way. Again, it is possible to book post nights at Hotel Hebron in Copenhagen city centre.

Breakfast and a meal on-board the flight is included today.

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