



Spartan Pathways Travel

DOG SLEDDING and ICE FORMATIONS in MICHIGAN'S UPPER PENINSULA

January 25-28, 2026

\$1,600 PER PERSON

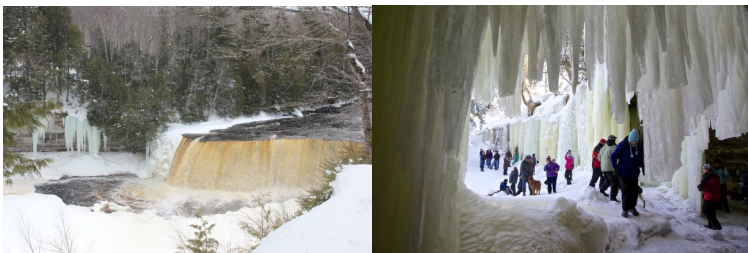


Tour Inclusions:

- Drive or ride with sled dog team
- 3 nights of lodging at Lake Effect 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 Lake Effect Inn to all excursions during the tour

Not Included: Travel insurance, items of a personal nature, alcoholic drinks, bridge tolls, 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 nestled in the Eastern Upper Peninsula and is home to 100 magnificent Alaskan Huskies. Your adventure will be led by Tasha Stielstra '98 (MSU College of Education), a seasoned musher who will guide you as you either drive your own dog team or enjoy a ride behind Nature's Kennel's sled dogs. You'll also hear Tasha's story—from MSU graduate to kennel owner—during an insider presentation on the kennel's history and operations.



Afterward, immerse yourself in Upper Peninsula winter splendor with a private snowshoe hike through Tahquamenon Falls State Park, led by a park ranger. Finally, join MSU alum Steve Tchozeski '77 of Great Lakes Geoscience for an illuminating session on the Eben Ice Caves and the breathtaking Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

"Tasha of Nature's Kennel is the reason this trip was beyond fantastic! She is so very kind and plans exciting adventures!"



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

Trip Itinerary:

Sunday, January 25th

6:00 pm Welcome reception at the Lake Effect Inn

Appetizers and wine will be served in the lounge followed by dinner.

6:30 pm Dinner at the Lake Effect 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 participation in sled dog races around the world.

Monday, January 26th

7:30 am Breakfast at the Lake Effect 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. Micro brewed 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). A park ranger will talk about the park's history and winter in the Upper Peninsula. 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 the Lake Effect Inn

Enjoy a catered dinner together and share some stories about the day's activities. Following dinner, there will be a brief introduction to the unique geologic features of the Eastern Upper Peninsula in preparation for touring the Munising area on Friday.



Tuesday, January 27th

8:00 am Breakfast at the Lake Effect Inn

9:00 am departure to Munising**

Steve Tchozeski of Great Lakes Geoscience will accompany this portion of the tour while you explore the beautiful frozen waterfalls and sandstone outcroppings of the Munising area. 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 two-mile round-trip hike to the Eben Ice Caves on snow-packed trails which can be somewhat slippery and uneven. Ice spikes are provided for the hike and you are welcome to bring your own hiking poles.

6:00 pm Dinner at The Shipwreck (across the street from the Lake Effect Inn)

Enjoy a fantastic dinner and then head back to the Inn to relax in front of the fireplace and enjoy a slide show of each day's activities.

Wednesday, January 28th

8 am-11 am Breakfast at the Lake Effect Inn

Departure at your leisure.



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

Accommodations: Enjoy three nights of lodging at the Lake Effect Inn in Curtis. The Lake Effect Inn, owned by Tasha Stielstra, is conveniently located in downtown Curtis with a beautiful view of South Manistique Lake. The Lake Effect Inn has five large private guest rooms* along with a large common area, breakfast/sunroom and fireplace. It's a great place to relax, connect with fellow travelers and unwind from life's busy schedules. *Two rooms are equipped with a private bathroom and three with community bathrooms.

Included meals: There will be a private welcome dinner and program at the Lake Effect Inn 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 Tasha know when making your reservation. .

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 (Lake Effect Inn, 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 January 25th 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 December 25th, 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
- Lake Effect Inn, 906-748-0513, <https://www.lakeeffectinn.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>



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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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