



6th Int. Arctic Hot-Air Balloon Adventure will be held in Gällivare, Swedish Lapland February 2012.

From 7th to 17th February 2012 the world's only ballooning event of this kind above the Arctic Circle will take place now for the sixth time. A nice mixture of ballooners from all over Europe come together. Expected are 15 teams from Holland, France, Swiss, Belgium, Germany, and Sweden. Part of the adventure will be of course ballooning competitions, passenger rides, arctic sport activities, safaris on skidoos, reindeer or husky sleighs, sitting together at a cosy campfire and of course lots of fun are also part of the exciting program. The polar light, Aurora Borealis, will send its regards and provided one extra portion of tension and crowning glory!

We hope for an area of high pressure to established during the 10 days. This will produce clear skies, low wind and temperatures of -23° to - 40 Celsius contributing to an amazing experience. It is something real special to rise up - well dressed with thermo clothes - 2500m and enjoy the wonderful clear arctic air and the panorama view down on the snowy Lapland winter landscape with it's frozen trees, it's moose's and reindeers. We will experience extreme weather conditions with partly 90 degrees difference in wind direction going higher and further in the inversion a rise of temperature of more then 10 degrees Celsius. To see the steam condensing in the cold air deflating the balloon is a very new experience for continental hot air ballooners. "Altogether we had 2011 seven out of the ten possible flying days, this is not at all usual and a record for the adventure up to now - to be honest. And almost caused us to run out of propane gas..." says ten Cate

6th Arctic Balloon Adventure, February 8 - 16, 2012 Gällivare - Swedish Lapland



In this endless nature only limited landing places are available beyond the endless forests and deep snow! One learns fast after a few landings in the deep snow. This is the main reason for us to do mainly fly-ins into the direction of the Gällivare area depending on the wind direction. Lakes and skidoo tracks are the most suitable landing places!

But in case of a landing in the deep snow our experienced guides function as rescue team equipped with skidoos (snowmobiles) and were always able to pick up the balloon and its passengers.

Hot-Air balloon flying under most extreme conditions is nothing ordinary. Based on a true story of the Swede Salomon Andrée, two Dutchmen originally organised this adventure in Levi, Northern Finland since 2007.

Andrée tempted 1897 without success to reach the North Pole with a hydrogen balloon. After only 50 km of journey he had to make a forced landing and the following footpath of approx. 3 months finally cost his and his team's lives. He was unprepared. He should have - and this is the base for the experience character of the Arctic Balloon Adventure - more in depth investigated how the Sami (the native people of Lapland) deal with the extreme conditions ruling in these northern regions. He possibly would have survived then.

During the wintertime the professional European hot-air balloonists have little to do since the local weather is simply too bad. Therefore Ton Kurvers (European Balloon company) and Hendrik E. ten Cate (Easy Event GmbH) got the idea of this spectacular adventure. Ten Cate supports Lapland at the promotion of the M.I.C.E. Market for more than five years and has apart from his love for this country

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a big variety of contacts here. Ton Kurvers flies for more than thirty years hot-air balloons all over the world. He gained an enormous experience and knows of course lot's of ballooners worldwide.

In February 2007 they organised the first "try-out" adventure. Five balloons from the Netherlands, Germany and Finland have taken part. It became a magnificent success right from the beginning. "I come to Lapland already since the beginning of the nineties and haven't often seen mooses there yet, but then to see 30 animals on a 1 ½ hr trip from a hot air balloon at one time was really fascinating!" ten Cate says.

Within the next years teams from Belgium, England, Finland, Germany, India, the Netherlands, Russia, Spain and even Japan came with their teams, most of them with vehicles of their own. The farthest journey up to now had a team from Barcelona with over 10,000 kilometers driven. This year a team from Japan topped this !

Furthermore this unique event is suitable for incentives. The incentive guests, equipped with appropriate protective clothing, are right from the beginning "part of the team". This means it may and should help to build up the balloon, to hold the ropes when inflating the balloon. Then quickly jump into the basket – and up up it goes! The journey takes 1-2 hours. A maximum of 40 – 60 passengers can fly at the same time!

From **7th to 17th February 2012**, there will be a new chance for everyone who got the taste and likes to experience this adventure.

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For further information, please take a look at www.hot-air-balloon-adventure.com or www.gellivarelapland.se/balloon
You can also contact Easy Event in Mönchengladbach, Germany – or Visit Gellivare Lapland, Sweden.

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