

# Before you mush

Five minutes here means a smoother start, a safer run, and a better day for you and for the dogs. Read it before you arrive.

Hetantie 211  
 99400 Enontekiö  
 Finland  
 hettahuskies.com

## Driving the sled

Your guide runs through all of this on the day. These are the three things worth knowing before you get there.



### Hold ten metres

The dogs are competitive and want to pass. Ten metres gives you room to react.



### Lean into the turn

Weight mainly on the inside runner, a little on the outside so it cannot tip in.



### Brake with your feet

The brake sits between the skis. Brake before a turn, and all the way down a hill.

## On the trail

### ✓ Please do

- ✓ Wait with **two feet on the brake and both hands on the bars** until your guide says go
- ✓ Watch the team ahead and **pass any slowing down the line**, like dominoes
- ✓ **Counterbalance at once** if the sled drifts towards the soft snow at the edge
- ✓ **Push like a scooter** uphill, and keep a foot on the brake downhill
- ✓ Check your own team constantly for a **tangled line or a trailing paw**

### ✗ Please don't

- ✗ **Never let go of the sled.** A loose team is the one thing we cannot fix quickly
- ✗ As a passenger, don't hold on - **keep hands and legs inside** the sledge
- ✗ Don't close up on the team ahead, however tempting the photograph
- ✗ Don't brake hard **during** a turn. Do it before
- ✗ Don't leave the groomed track: the snow beside it is soft and deep

## Around the dogs

- **Ask your guide first** before you touch, feed or photograph a dog closely
- Approach **calmly and from the front**, never from behind
- Never step over a **running line or a tether**
- These are **working athletes**, not pets. They will tell you when they want a fuss
- If a dog is resting, **let it rest**. That is how it stays fit to run

|              |                      |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Dress for    | <b>-30 °C</b>        |
| Base layers  | <b>Two thin wool</b> |
| Cotton       | <b>None</b>          |
| Outer layers | <b>We supply</b>     |
| Gap to hold  | <b>10 metres</b>     |

### One rule above all others

If you come off, hold on to the sled for as long as you safely can. Getting you back on your feet takes a moment. Catching a team that has run off does not.