



Christmas in a Jeris Winter Cottage



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 1109
DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

Create family memories to last a lifetime in Lapland this Christmas. Your family will stay in a cosy log cabin and enjoy wonderful activities such as husky safaris, snowshoeing and festive fun including a private meeting with Father Christmas which is sure to be a truly magical experience for your family.

Our Opinion

“ We are extremely fussy when it comes to family Christmas holidays. We don't go to the mass resorts and we like to seek out destinations which offer real family experiences and help to create magical Christmas memories. Our holiday at Jeris is the most longstanding of our Christmas holidays and a real family favourite every year. The feedback we receive is exceptional and the guides and our local representative do all they can to make Christmas unforgettable for our families. ”

Ali Mclean



What's included?

- **Flights:** return flights from London Heathrow to Kittilä (via Helsinki). Flight routes are subject to change
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 7 nights in a Type A winter cottage (upgrades available to larger cabins)
- **Meals:** 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners
- Free soft drinks for children throughout and free tea and coffee for adults
- **The following activities are included:** Snowshoe search for the wishing tree, Father Christmas visit, baking Christmas cookies, Christmas celebrations, lunch in a traditional kota, reindeer farm visit and sleigh ride, husky safari, Arctic Elements Sauna World, snowmobile safari, cross-country skiing, snow fun and ice fishing (**the order of activities is subject to change**)
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Fully qualified wilderness guides and instructors
- 24/7 assistance from our UK-based operations team and in-destination support from our local partners

Trip Overview

Jeris encompasses the Lappish idyll; cosy winter cottages, log fires, a beautiful lakeside setting, winter forests and a range of exceptional family activities. It's the ideal location in which to combine comfort, activities and a truly memorable Christmas.

Your family will meet with reindeer, enjoy dog sledding, travel by snowmobile and explore using both snowshoes and cross-country skis. You will dine around campfires and eat in a traditional kota. Festive fun is sprinkled throughout with cookie baking, toasting marshmallows and magical wishing trees all part of your stay. There's also a healthy dose of snow fun activities of course.

The all-important visit to see Father Christmas is private to your family. Your children can sit and talk with him, discussing their hopes and dreams for Christmas and the year to come. There's never a dry eye amongst parents at this point!

The setting for all these wonderful experiences is breathtakingly beautiful and you will get

to share it all as a family.

Jeris is also at the heart of the Aurora Zone, so your evenings may well include time spent gazing up at an Arctic sky filled with Northern Lights.

The cosy winter cottage accommodation offers log burning stoves and a private sauna, so they are the perfect retreat and a comfortable base for your family Christmas in Lapland.

Photography by Antti Pietikainen and The Murphy Family (clients)

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

WELCOME TO LAPLAND

You will be greeted at Kittilä Airport and transferred directly to Jeris (around 1 hour away).

You'll then check in to your cosy winter cottage accommodation where your Arctic clothing will be waiting for you.

There may be some time for fun in the snow ahead of your welcome dinner in the restaurant this evening. The local team on reception will provide you with all the information you need for the week ahead and you can ask any questions you may have.

Throughout your stay, don't forget to keep a close eye on the sky above you at night, as this is prime Northern Lights territory!

Please note that the order and start times of the activities and meals are subject to change and this agenda should be read as a guide only.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

SNOWSHOE SEARCH FOR THE WISHING TREE, FATHER CHRISTMAS VISIT AND CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

This morning, you will head out on snowshoes in search of the magic wishing tree in the forest. Once you've located it, children will be encouraged to leave their wishes in its branches. Following this, you will be able to enjoy a warming mug of hot chocolate whilst toasting marshmallows around the campfire.

After lunch, which will be served in the hotel restaurant, it is time for the all-important event as you depart for your meeting with Father Christmas.

You will travel in a snowmobile-pulled sled which will take you to the edge of the forest.

Whilst waiting for their special meeting, guests will enjoy snacks in a kota nearby.

Then, each family will head down a candlelit, snow-covered path to a secluded cabin where you will meet the great man himself.

During your private audience with Father Christmas, he will spend time listening to the wishes of each child. There will also be plenty of opportunities for the all-important photographs to commemorate this exceptional family experience.

Following the special visit with Father Christmas, it is time to bake! Festive cookies are on the menu and the whole family can get creative. You will then be able to sample your bakes with a warm drink.

This evening, dinner will be served in the hotel restaurant and, as Christmas is primarily celebrated on the 24th in Finland, a surprise visitor may even pop in and say hello to everyone!

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
3

LUNCH IN A KOTA AND REINDEER FARM VISIT AND SLEIGH RIDE

Following breakfast, free time this morning will give you the opportunity to enjoy some festive fun as a family – take some sleds and play in the snow, or explore your snowy surroundings.

Today's lunch will be served at nearby Torassieppi in a traditional Finnish kota.

There can be no animal which is more synonymous with Christmas in Lapland than a reindeer, so this afternoon you will spend some time in their company.

You will travel to a local reindeer farm, where a herder will tell you all about how important the animals are to this region. You can then see the furry-nosed reindeer up close and take your family photos. There will be a chance to feed them before a magical reindeer-pulled sleigh ride covering around 1km.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

HUSKY SAFARI AND ARCTIC ELEMENTS SAUNA WORLD

This morning will see you all take part in an unforgettable dog sled safari, a favourite with all the family. You will head to the husky centre where you will meet these working dogs and learn about their daily life. There might even be some puppies to play with which is always a treat.

You will notice that the dogs are very excited to see you all when you arrive, and they make quite a comical amount of noise as they are so excited to get on the trail. Their

enthusiasm is infectious, but as soon as they are on the move, they fall silent as they happily pull the sled along.

Adults will be given full instruction on how to handle a team of dogs and the sled before setting off in pairs (one standing on the sled and the other enjoying the view as a passenger). Children will typically all travel in a sled which is controlled by a guide. The route taken is ideal for families and covers around 6km.

After lunch, you can all enjoy the Arctic Elements Sauna World. A collection of saunas is situated on the lakeshore at Jeris, including a traditional wood-heated smoke sauna. For the very brave (healthy adults only) there is also the chance to take a dip in the ice pool – it's very refreshing!

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
5

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING AND SNOWMOBILE SAFARI

To start the morning, you will enjoy the very Finnish, family pastime of cross-country skiing. You don't need to have tried any form of skiing before as full instruction is provided. Your guide will lead you along some of the easy trails which surround the hotel.

Kids do tend to pick this activity up remarkably quickly and go whizzing along the tracks, but it always provides some giggles for the grown-ups too. Once you have the technique, you can travel around the trails with ease and you may even fancy renting skis later in the week for some independent exploration. In total, you will be out for around 2 hours.

After lunch, it is time to explore further afield and everyone is sure to feel a rush of excitement ahead of this morning's snowmobile safari.

Snowmobiles are an integral part of life in the Arctic and you will often see families travelling together in this way to visit friends on weekends.

The adults will be given full instruction and a safety briefing before setting off in pairs for the 20km safari. The children will travel in a sleigh pulled by the guides' snowmobiles. Please note that you need a full driving licence in order to drive a snowmobile and must be over 18.

The trip will really give you the chance to appreciate the scale of the wilderness which surrounds Jeris.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
6

SNOW FUN AND ICE FISHING

This morning you will make your way for a hearty breakfast ahead of a fun-filled day of Arctic adventures.

After breakfast, spend the morning making the most of the vast winter playground around the hotel, with plenty of fun and games in the snow. There will be ice hockey, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing and even a mini snowmobile for the children (aged between 4 and 8 depending on the size of the child). All this outdoor excitement will be fuelled with hot drinks and cookies.

Following lunch, it's time to try ice-fishing, a very traditional pastime in Lapland. Ice fishing involves drilling a hole in a frozen lake and dropping your line into the waters beneath. A guide will set you up and will be on hand with a warm drink before you settle in and await a bite on the line.

Tonight's meal will be served in Jeris' lakeside restaurant, where you will enjoy a local meal (although this is planned for tonight, the night on which you have this meal may be subject to change as is the rest of the programme).

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
7

FREE DAY

Today has been left free for you to do as you wish. You may opt to relax and refresh before you return home tomorrow, or you could explore the local area further by hiring snowshoes or cross-country skis.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
8

DEPARTURE

Today your magical Christmas adventure will draw to a close as you are transferred to the airport for your flights home.

If you have an early start, then you will be provided with a packed breakfast to enjoy during your transfer.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

Hotel Jeris Winter Cottage (Nights: 1-6)



Winter Cottage Type A

Hotel Jeris and its winter cottages are on the shores of Lake Jerisjarvi around 20km from the nearest town. They offer families an idyllic location for a holiday in the wilds of Finnish Lapland.

The hotel consists of the main building which is home to the hotel rooms, gift shop and restaurant. The 35 winter cottages are dotted in the surrounding forests.

Hotel facilities:

- All meals are served in the main hotel restaurant. There is always a selection of options which often includes local dishes as well as more international cuisine.
- The buffet breakfast offers a wide selection of cooked and continental options; whilst lunch and dinner are usually a selection of salads, then a choice between a meat/fish main course and a vegetarian option, followed by a set dessert. During December, a special buffet menu and certain soft drinks are also provided for children.
- Tea and coffee are available free of charge throughout the day in the hotel restaurant/bar area.
- There is a small lounge area in the main building where guests can use the free Wi-Fi connection and there is a small shop selling souvenirs and snacks.
- Jeris is home to the lovely Arctic Sauna World just a short walk from the hotel. Renovated for winter 2019/20, the spa has strong eco-credentials thanks to its use of entirely renewable electricity and geothermal heating generated from the Jerisjärvi lake. Here there are four saunas each inspired by the four elements; earth, fire, water and air and named after Finnish gods and goddesses. You can also upgrade to the special Northern Lights sauna for a relaxing way to search the skies! If you are feeling brave (and are in good health) try an adventurous dip in the ice pool.

Winter Cottage Type A:

Type A winter cottages (30 square metres) are, on the whole, the closest to the hotel and are ideal for families with small children.

The cabins can vary in size but all sleep from two to four people in one spacious room with

a sleeping alcove for two people (generally with a double bed) and a pull-out sofa bed for two more. They are all privately-owned and so the décor and style can vary, but each has a cosy wood-burning stove, clothes-drying cupboard, kitchenette, television, shower room, toilet and a private sauna.

All meals are served in the hotel restaurant.

Cabin guests will receive a small 'starter pack' of firewood. Further wood supplies can be purchased locally for approximately 10 euros.

Please note: a limited number of hairdryers are available from reception.

Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.



Jeris Winter Cottage Type B

Type B winter cottages (63 square metres) sleep from four to six people and are ideal for families of four or more. There is a living room area with kitchenette and wood-burning stove, one bedroom for two people and a mezzanine loft area (please note that this is accessed by a steep ladder so is not suitable for small children) which can sleep up to four more.

The cottages are all privately owned and so some contents and décor may vary, but all are equipped with a clothes drying cupboard, sauna, TV, shower and toilet room.

The cosy winter cottages are located in the forests which surround Jeris; the furthest being across the quiet road and tucked in the trees around a 15-minute walk from the main building. Your luggage will be transferred for you on arrival.

Cabin guests will receive a small 'starter pack' of firewood. Further wood supplies can be purchased locally for approximately 10 euros.

All meals are served in the hotel restaurant.

Please speak to one of our Family Travel Experts for a quote.

Please note: A limited number of hairdryers are available from reception.

Jeris Winter Cottage Type C



Type C winter cottages (70 square metres) are the largest available and sleep from four to seven people. There are two bedrooms (each for two people) downstairs and a loft sleeping area for a further two (or three if you don't mind being very cosy!) people accessed via a steep staircase (not suitable for small children).

As with all the cottages, there is a log-burning stove, clothes drying cupboard, kitchenette, sauna, TV, shower and toilet room. They can vary in layout a little and as they are privately-owned, the décor is determined by the owner's personal choice.

They are located in the forests which surround Jeris; the furthest being across the quiet road, and tucked in the trees between a 10 and a 20-minute walk from the main building. Your luggage will be transferred for you on arrival. All meals are served in the hotel restaurant.

Cabin guests will receive a small 'starter pack' of firewood. Further wood supplies can be purchased locally for approximately 10 euros.

Please speak to one of our Family Travel Experts for a quote.

Please note: A limited number of hairdryers are available from reception.

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum group size 10 and maximum 40 people (approximately)

Group Size

We always try to provide an approximation of the group size you can expect to be with for the duration of each of our holidays. It may be that you are joined by others for parts of

your holiday (such as transfers and particular activities) but the above number reflects those you can normally expect to be with from beginning to end. If group size is something which is particularly important to you, please speak to our Travel Experts and they can suggest the best holidays for you.

Tailor-made holiday group sizes will vary for all activities as will the group size for any additional activities you book.

Minimum numbers required for a holiday to operate

Some of our holidays require a minimum number of participants to operate (as listed in the 'Group Size' section). If your holiday departure has not yet reached the minimum number, you will be told at the time of booking. In the unlikely event that your chosen date is not guaranteed by nine weeks before your scheduled departure date, we will contact you to discuss the available options as per our booking conditions.

Minimum and maximum age

The minimum age for this holiday can be found in the 'Key Facts' section of the holiday overview.

Younger family members may be able to participate but may not be able to take part in all activities. Please contact one of our Travel Experts if you have any questions.

Itinerary amendments

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final and detailed itinerary will be provided either with your final travel documents (which are uploaded into your online account around a week prior to departure) or upon arrival.

Terms - Jeris cabin minimum number requirements

Minimum accommodation occupancy:

Cabin A: price is based on 2 adults sharing a cabin with one or more children (minimum occupancy for a cabin A is 2 adults)

Cabin B: price is based on 2 adults sharing with 2 children (minimum occupancy for a cabin B is 2 adults and 2 children or 3 adults)

Cabin C: price is based on 3 adults sharing with 2 children (minimum occupancy for a cabin C is 3 adults and 2 children or 4 adults)

Terms and Conditions

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: <https://www.activitiesabroad.com/booking-conditions>

Please note: our payment and cancellation terms will be unique to each booking - they will be confirmed with you at the time of quotation. The terms listed above are noted as a guide only