



Menesjärvi New Year Northern Lights Adventure



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 1048
DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

Menesjärvi is a wonderful place in which to welcome in New Year with your family. On arrival in the north, you will experience exceptional winter activities including snowmobiling, dog sledding, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and ice fishing together as a family. To add even more, you are also in a prime location for witnessing the Northern Lights in all their glory.

Our Opinion

“ What a place to welcome in the New Year with your family! Here you can get a real insight into the people, places and culture of Lapland in one of our most remote, yet welcoming destinations. Your days will be filled with a variety of activities – reindeer, dog sledding, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing - whilst your evenings will focus on seeking out the Northern Lights. Although with the remote position of Menesjärvi you needn't go far should the prospects be good! Happy New Year! ”

Dawn Kitson



What's included?

- **Flights:** return flights from London to Ivalo (via Helsinki). Flight routes are subject to change
- **Transfers:** return group airport transfers from the airport to Menesjärvi
- **Accommodation:** 7 nights' hotel accommodation
- **Meals:** 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners
- **The following activities are included in your stay:** snowshoe hike, kick sleds, cross-country skiing, Aurora workshop and Aurora snowshoe, morning with a reindeer herder, wilderness skills, winter fishing by snowmobile, husky safari, visit to the Sámi Siida Museum*, Aurora kota dinner and New Year festivities, **(the order of activities is subject to change)**
- Free use of snowshoes, skis, kicksleds and toboggans throughout your stay at Menesjärvi
- 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

Menesjärvi is the ideal place to spend New Year with your family. You can try unforgettable winter activities, search for the Northern Lights, enjoy a very warm welcome from your hosts and explore some unforgettable scenery.

This trip is all about amazing, shared family experiences and learning about life in Lapland. You are far removed from the holiday crowds here. During your stay, you will explore together and enjoy an array of exciting activities. By the end of your trip, you will have explored your surroundings using snowshoes, snowmobiles, kick sleds, dog sleds and on cross-country skis.

Upon arrival in Lapland, your days will be filled with activities and we do what we can to help ensure that your nights may be filled with Aurora sightings. Menesjärvi is situated at the heart of the Aurora Zone, far from light pollution and populated areas. The hotel is situated on the banks of a large frozen lake and every night you will find that families gather to watch the skies in the hope of a sighting.

The accommodation at Menesjärvi is warm and welcoming, offering simple Scandinavian décor and hearty food; perfect for the winter climate. Your hosts really do all they can to make sure you have an

unforgettable and unique experience.

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Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL

On arrival at Ivalo Airport, you will be greeted and transferred to your accommodation at Menesjärvi. The drive to the hotel takes you through beautiful winter landscapes, so sit back and enjoy!

Dinner will be served in the hotel restaurant tonight. Then you'll need to get a good night's sleep tonight ahead of your adventures beginning tomorrow.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

SNOWSHOES (BY DAY AND NIGHT), KICK SLEDGES, CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING AND AURORA PRESENTATION

This morning, you will have some instructions on how to use snowshoes, kick sledges and cross-country skiing equipment. It is a great way to get really stuck into the snowy landscape and to start exploring this winter wonderland.

Following lunch, the afternoon is free for you to explore independently. Snowshoes, kick sleds and cross-country skis are available for you to use throughout your stay at Menesjärvi.

You will be given a brief presentation on the Northern Lights later this evening. This will explain the basic science of the Aurora and also the legends and myths it has inspired over the centuries. Your guide will also give you some tips on how best to photograph the lights which will hopefully come in handy later when you snowshoe to a vantage point by the frozen lake. You will be out for around two hours this evening.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, DinnerDAY
3

MORNING WITH A REINDEER HERDER

Today you will be spending time enjoying the company of some of Lapland's most famous residents, reindeer! You will meet with a local Sámi reindeer herder to learn about how important these furry nosed animals are to the Arctic. You will transfer to the nearby farm and then travel by snowmobile-pulled sleigh ride out into the wilderness to locate the herd and call them in for some food. Once you have located the reindeer you will be able to feed them and take some pictures of them in their natural surroundings before the guide will light a fire and answer any questions. The activity will last for around two to two and half hours and lunch will be served back at the hotel.

After lunch, you can enjoy using the free cross-country skis, snowshoes or toboggan equipment independently at your leisure. It is a great way to spend some quality time together as a family.

This evening it is possible to add an optional second snowshoe search for the Northern Lights. Please see the '[Personalise](#)' section for details. Dinner will be served at the hotel restaurant.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, DinnerDAY
4

WILDERNESS SKILLS

After breakfast, the group will set off towards the forest on snowshoes for a lesson in wilderness skills. Your local guide (imagine a Finnish version of Ray Mears) will teach you the basics of map reading, show you how to identify animal footprints, use a wood knife (under supervision) and light a fire. It's all a wonderful experience and something that families rarely get to try back in the UK. Lunch will be prepared over an open fire in a traditional Lappish hut.

The remainder of the afternoon will be yours to spend at leisure. It is a great time to relax and enjoy the picturesque winter setting. Alternatively, you may wish to make use of the hotel's winter equipment. Dinner will be served in the restaurant this evening.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, DinnerDAY
5

SNOWMOBILE SAFARI AND WINTER FISHING

Following breakfast, you will join a local guide for a snowmobile safari, allowing you to experience the immense scale of the wilderness and have a great time! Following a full safety briefing, you will head out to explore the trails with your guide to lead the way. You must be 18 years old or over and have a full driving licence to drive a snowmobile in Finland. Typically, adults will travel two people per machine and children will generally travel together in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile.

Your destination is a spot on the vast frozen Lake Menesjärvi where you can all try the ancient skill of

ice fishing. Your guide will show you how to drill through the thick ice to reach the water below. You then drop your line into the water and wait for a fish to bite. There can be some serious excitement if someone is lucky enough to catch a fish! You will be out for around two hours in total.

After lunch, you will have a free afternoon and dinner will be enjoyed in the restaurant this evening.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
6

DOG SLED SAFARI, VISIT TO SÁMI SIIDA MUSEUM AND NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

A dog sled safari is a 'must-do' activity during any holiday in Lapland and it's a phenomenal way to spend the last day of the year. The dogs' enthusiasm is always mirrored in the faces of the families taking part. There is a real thrill gained from travelling in such a traditional way. The dogs' always make quite a noise prior to departure but when they hit the trail they settle into what they love best.

The adults will be given full instruction on how to handle a team of dogs and sled before departing in pairs. Typically, the children will ride in a large sled which is controlled by the guide. The safari will last for around one hour and lunch will then be enjoyed in the village of Inari.

Next on the agenda, is a visit to the famous Sámi Siida Museum. Now we don't want to scare all the kids with the idea of a boring museum, this place is great fun for all. There are many interactive exhibits that show how people live in this remote environment as well as a short film about the local area and Northern Lights. It is a fascinating place for people of any age and there's also a souvenir shop selling Artisan local handicrafts which are always popular. Please note that while this activity is scheduled for today, the order is always subject to change and will be confirmed on arrival at Menesjärvi.

This evening, you will be gathering for some New Year celebrations and a special meal to celebrate the end of another twelve months. With a little luck, the Northern Lights may also grace you with their presence.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
7

FREE DAY YOUR WAY

Today has been left free for you to end your trip as you wish. You can explore independently using the snowshoes and skis that are at your disposal or you can also arrange additional activities locally (subject to availability and local payment).

Dinner will be served in the hotel and will offer one last evening in which to think back over your adventures and, of course, take a walk down to the lake to gaze at the skies.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
8

DEPARTURE

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

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Aurora Hunt via snowmobile

This thrilling safari will take you out via snowmobile across the vast frozen expanse of Lake Menesjärvi. Your guide will lead the way to the most likely spot to witness the Aurora, far from any light pollution and where you can enjoy unobstructed views of the night sky.

Adults will travel two per snowmobile (drivers must have a full driving licence and be 18 years or over) whilst children will travel in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile.

Fingers crossed you are successful in your search and see the Aurora in all its glory!

Duration: approximately 2 hours in total

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Aurora Hunt via snowshoe

On this evening excursion, you will strap on snowshoes and set out into the surrounding frozen wilderness around Menesjärvi in search of the Northern Lights.

Whilst the Northern Lights cannot be guaranteed, your chances are exceptionally high here with Menesjärvi having an excellent track record when it comes to the Aurora so hopefully, your family will enjoy a dazzling display! Whilst you wait patiently, the guide will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about the

Northern Lights and the beautiful surrounding nature here.

Duration: approximately 2 hours in total

Included Accommodation

Hotel Korpikartano (Nights: 1-7)



When it comes to remote locations there are few that compare to Menesjärvi. Pristine and unspoiled, it is the perfect place for an Arctic family adventure in search of the Aurora.

Menesjärvi is a traditional reindeer herding community and what was once the local school is now the Hotel Korpikartano. Locally owned, you are sure of a warm and traditional Finnish welcome and our guests often say that they leave feeling like they are part of the family.

The hotel is split into two buildings with the main building housing the dining room and reception as well as some bedroom. The annexe, which is approximately 50 metres away, houses the majority of the bedrooms.

Hotel facilities

- There are saunas available in both buildings for guests to use free of charge
- Free Wi-Fi is available throughout and there is a PC available
- Most meals will be served in the hotel dining room. The set evening meals are self-service and the food served is simple and hearty home cooking. In our experience, it has always been delicious and ideal sustenance after a day's adventuring
- A selection of games and books is also available but we find that most of our guests spend their time outdoors gazing at the skies or simply enjoying the snow
- Cross-country skis, snowshoes and kick sleds are available to use free of charge
- The hotel's Aurora Lounge offers the perfect place to relax after a day of fun in the snow with tea and coffee available for guests, as well as a small library, TV (with Finnish channels only) and cosy fireplace

Room types

Twin, double and family rooms: The hotel is anything but standardised, with no two rooms being the same shape or size. There are 27 rooms in total, all of which have en-suite shower rooms and hairdryers. There are kettles and cups provided and tea bags and coffee are available in both buildings.

The rooms are comfortable and many are decorated with locally sourced wood and pieces of furniture which have been crafted out of wood from the surrounding forests.

Varying from double and twin rooms to more family-style accommodation (sleeping up to six people) you will be allocated the most suitable room for your party at the time of booking (subject to availability).

Image credits: Timo Halonen

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

This holiday requires a minimum of 4 people to run, however, we require a minimum of 8 people for our flight allocation. Maximum 20 people (approximately). Please speak to our travel experts for further information.

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.

Menesjarvi - cancellation terms

CANCELLATION TERMS:

Please note that the following cancellation terms supersede those mentioned in section 7 of our general booking terms and conditions.

More than 63 days prior to departure - Loss of deposit (including the full cost of flights or other services where paid at the time of booking)

62 to 46 days prior to arrival – 20%

59 to 45 days prior to departure - 30%

44 to 30 days prior to departure - 50%

29 or less days - 100%

Terms and Conditions

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

Swim stops

There are plenty of opportunities during our cruises for refreshing swim stops in some beautiful spots en route. Please note that this is not a supervised or guided activity and whilst safety equipment is provided on board and staff members will be present, each passenger is responsible for their own safety whilst in the water.