



Nellim Half-Term Aurora Adventure



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 1909
DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

Nellim sits in a remote and beautiful location, offering first-rate family activities and incredible Aurora potential. In the winter, this snow-topped paradise is waiting to be explored, and you will do so via snowshoe, cross-country skis, husky sled and snowmobile. With two Northern Lights hunts included for good measure, this is a perfect half-term break!

Our Opinion

“ Nellim presents families with an endless Arctic playground for activities such as snowshoeing, snowmobiling, husky sledding and more. Its remote location also ensures minimal light pollution, making it an excellent place to hopefully witness a spectacular Aurora display. One of my favourite things to do during a free evening here is to sit around the lakeside campfire and enjoy hot berry juice with my kids as we keep watch for the Northern Lights – a simple yet memorable family experience. ”

Ali Mclean



What's included?

- **Flights:** return flights from London to Ivalo (either direct or via Helsinki). Flight routes subject to change.
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 7 nights' hotel accommodation in double/twin room. (**Please note:** the hotel can usually accommodate your bed set up preference but this can't be guaranteed. Upgrades available on request.)
- **Meals:** 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners
- **The following activities are included:** wilderness day, Northern Lights workshop, Aurora Camp, cross-country skiing, husky safari, minibus/car Northern Lights hunt, snowmobile safari, snowshoeing, reindeer visit (**order 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

Wilderness Hotel Nellim is based in a remote setting in the northeast corner of Finland. It offers families a total escape from the every day and the chance to experience one of the last great wilderness regions in Europe. The hotel is family-owned and exceptionally welcoming; renowned for its hospitality, food and friendly staff who do all they can to make sure you make the most of this vast Arctic playground by both day and night. There are plenty of great family accommodation options including suites, hotel rooms and cabins all of which offer a comfortable base to enjoy after a day in the Arctic. Browse through our accommodation tab for more information and see which you think would be best suited for your family.

For families, the inclusive activities (of which there are many!) provide the opportunity to really make the most of these remarkable surroundings. From honing your fire-making and igloo building skills to snowmobiling and husky sledding across the vast, frozen landscape, your family will be sure to have an unforgettable experience. Cross-country skiing, reindeer encounters and snowshoe hikes will also give you a feel for the local lifestyle here in Lapland.

Ideally located within the Aurora Zone, Nellim is an exceptional destination from which to view the Northern Lights. Four of the Activities Abroad team witnessed their first Aurora either from the banks of frozen Lake Inari or at one of the excellent Aurora Camps here and have since taken their own families back to the hotel to share in the experience.

Each year this half-term holiday receives outstanding feedback and it never fails to sell out so we would recommend booking as soon as possible to secure your family's places on this Aurora Adventure.

Please note that the order of activities within your itinerary is subject to change and the agenda should be used as a guide only. The exact order of your agenda will be confirmed upon arrival at the hotel.

White outline Interreg Nord

Image credits: Markku Inkila, Anthony Oberlin & Matt Robinson

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY 1	ARRIVAL
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Upon arrival into Ivalo Airport, you will be transferred* to your accommodation.

After checking into your chosen accommodation, this evening you will enjoy a meal in the hotel's restaurant. You'll also be provided with your cold weather clothing, so feel free to take a walk outside and search for the Aurora on your first night in Lapland!

Please note that the order of activities within your itinerary is subject to change and the agenda below should be used as a guide only. The exact order of your agenda will be confirmed upon arrival at the hotel.

*Transfers are based on a scheduled group shuttle that sometimes stops at a few nearby hotels. If you would prefer to upgrade to a private taxi transfer please ask our Travel Experts for a quotation

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY 2	DAY IN THE WILDERNESS, NORTHERN LIGHTS WORKSHOP AND AURORA CAMP
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You will awake this morning to your stunning new surroundings and have your first real glimpse of the winter wonderland around the hotel.

After enjoying a hearty breakfast in the restaurant, it is time to get down to the all-important business of exploring! For your first Arctic foray, you will head off for a day in the wilderness – the perfect introduction to this remarkable landscape!

Activities today may include the likes of fire building, igloo construction and ice fishing across the vast, white wilderness. Lunch will be cooked on an open fire, giving you a real sense of the outdoor lifestyle that you will be enjoying here. You will be out for around four hours.

Back at the hotel your guide will take you through some of the basic science of the Aurora and provide some hints and tips for budding Aurora photographers! Your local guides are real Northern Lights addicts and they will share with you some of their experiences and insights into this phenomenon.

After your workshop, you will be fully ready for your inaugural Aurora hunt. Travelling in a snowmobile-pulled sled, you will be led to an Aurora Camp. These camps are local Aurora hotspots which the guides have handpicked for their views of the night sky. A warming fire and hot drinks will sustain you as you await a potential display. You will be out for approximately two and a half hours.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
3

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING, HUSKY SAFARI AND NORTHERN LIGHTS HUNT
BY MINIBUS OR CAR

One of the first things that children in Lapland are taught (once they have mastered walking) is how to cross-country ski. Today it is your turn to take to the trails and get the hang of this sport. With some expert tuition from your guide, you should soon be able to glide along the trails around the hotel. You will be out for approximately two hours.

After lunch, it is time for a real activity highlight as the group heads to the kennels in preparation for this afternoon's dog sled safari. Following a full introduction and a safety briefing, you will set off on your sled with an eager husky team leading the way (two adults will travel per team). Children will travel in a larger sled pulled by the guide's team of dogs. The route you take will vary depending on the weather conditions, but this is sure to be a real highlight for all. Having travelled for around one and a half hours you'll return to the kennels where there will be lots of opportunities to take photos and make a fuss of the dogs before heading back to the hotel. In total, you will be out for approximately two hours.

Following dinner this evening, you will head out in a minibus or car to see if you can track down an Aurora display. Your guides will come prepared with the latest weather and Aurora forecasts in order to optimise your chances and you will hopefully be rewarded with a spectacular Northern Lights display. One of the most successful spots is Paatsjoki Bridge, where you can look out at the flowing river below. You will be out for approximately three hours.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
4

SNOWMOBILE SAFARI

One of the most exciting ways to navigate this vast landscape is via snowmobile, whizzing across frozen lakes and navigating the snow-covered forest trails. Snowmobiles are fun, they're thrilling and they give the chance to explore deeper into the wilds.

Adults travel with two people per snowmobile (you can take it in turns to drive, providing you are both in possession of a full licence and over the age of 18) whilst children will travel in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile. Your tour will last approximately two hours and there will be a chance to stop along the way to enjoy the scenery.

Your evening has been left free for you to relax and unwind after your long day navigating the wilds. Should the forecast be good, we would suggest taking a walk down to the small lake behind the hotel, or Lake Inari and keeping watch on the skies in the hope of a dazzling display.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
5

SNOWSHOEING AND FREE AFTERNOON

Although snowshoeing may not sound quite as exciting as some of the other activities you will enjoy on this trip, it is always very popular. You may have worked out by now that if you walk off the trails you can end up waist deep in snow; snowshoes make life much easier. Exploring on foot gives you the chance to see the flora and fauna up close and your guide will point out any animal prints as you go. You will be out for approximately two hours.

Your afternoon and evening have been left free for you to relax or enjoy activities at your own pace. Snowshoes and cross-country skis are available to hire from the hotel, meaning you can take advantage of the numerous trails which surround the hotel and neighbouring forest land if you want to explore independently. Many families take to a sledging slope and then simply enjoy time around one of the lakeside campfires watching the skies.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
6

REINDEER VISIT

A trip to Lapland wouldn't be complete without the chance to meet some reindeer. These gentle creatures vastly outnumber the residents of Lapland and reindeer herding is of great importance to the region. The traditions and knowledge of this occupation date back centuries and herding has had a huge impact on the culture here.

This morning you will visit these gentle animals. Here you will have the chance to feed the reindeer and talk to the guide about a traditional herder's livelihood. This is a wonderful opportunity to get up close with these gentle creatures and gain an understanding of the history of this region and its unique cultural identity.

This activity lasts approximately two hours.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
7

FREE DAY

After an action-packed few days, we have left your final day free for you to tailor your time. 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. Additional activities can also be arranged (please speak to one of our Travel Experts for further information).

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
8

DEPARTURE

Today you will bid farewell to Nellim as you are transferred to the airport for your return flights home.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Spend the night in an Aurora Bubble

A wonderful addition to your family holiday, spending the night in an Aurora Bubble offers the chance for a unique and memorable night's sleep, as you lie back in bed and gaze directly up into the pitch-black Arctic sky.

Each Bubble consists of a wooden base, with a large north-facing dome window over the bed. There is also a small toilet too. They are heated and decked

out with cosy furnishings, ensuring a warm night's sleep. Of course, you may not want to sleep much, choosing instead to keep a close watch on the sky!

The Aurora Bubbles are situated a short walk from the hotel amongst the trees. They have no running water but if you upgrade to spend the night in a Bubble then you will also keep your hotel room so facilities are within easy reach. Please note that the beds in the Bubbles are double beds so can only accommodate two people.

Whilst we can't guarantee the Northern Lights, this remains a genuinely memorable and fun experience for your family!

Image credit: Markku Inkila

Other options

SPECIAL NIGHTS



Sleep in an Aurora Kota

Nellim is renowned as an Aurora viewing destination and so the hotel has created a selection of Aurora Kotas for guests to enjoy.

These part-cabin and part-glass tepee buildings are self-contained and situated a short distance from the hotel. The idea is that you can hopefully watch the Northern Lights from the comfort of the bed.

The Kotas are all 25m² with their own private sauna, double bed and en-suite bathroom. There is also room for two extra beds for children.

Please note: prices are based on you spending the first or last night of your holiday in this unique accommodation and not keeping your original accommodation. If you would like to do this on any other night during your holiday you will need to keep your accommodation and supplements will apply. Please contact our Travel Experts for a quotation.

Image credit: Anthony Oberlin

Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

Wilderness Hotel Nellim (Nights: 1-7)



The rather lovely Wilderness Hotel Nellim is a small family-run hotel, owned and run by Jouko and Mari Lappalainen and their family.

The building was once a village school but has been wonderfully restored and decorated

in a warm and welcoming style to offer a laid-back and inviting atmosphere for visiting families.

The hotel has three main accommodation buildings surrounding a central courtyard. In the main building, you will find the majority of the rooms, the bar and restaurant, sauna and cosy lounge area. The two additional buildings are only around 50m from the main building and contain apartments and more hotel rooms.

Hotel facilities

- The focal point of the main building is the restaurant area which offers a cosy dining area and a bar with seating for up to 120 people. Your meals here will be served buffet-style and the food is hearty and wholesome with both traditional Finnish and international food to enjoy
- There are tea and coffee facilities available in the restaurant for guests to access during their stay and if you are situated in one of the buildings outside the main one there are tea and coffee stations available too (a small fee applies)
- Free Wi-Fi is available in the main hotel reception area
- There is one sauna for guest use, which you can book per room for private hire

Room types

Double or twin rooms: The hotel has 34 rooms in total which can be made up as either a double or a twin. These are all decorated in traditional Finnish décor and offer a warm and comfortable base. All are en-suite with shower room and hairdryer.

Please note: the hotel can usually accommodate your bed set up preference but this can't be guaranteed. Upgrades available on request.

Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.

Wilderness Hotel Nellim - Arctic Suites



During your stay at Nellim, a popular option for families is to upgrade to one of the cosy and comfortable Arctic Suites. Situated in one of the annexe buildings they are across a small courtyard from the main building and restaurant. The Arctic Suites are a great option if you have a larger family or would like additional room and space to relax in after a day's Arctic adventures.

The suites vary in size and in the facilities that they offer and are booked on a first-come, first-served basis according to the needs of your party.

Arctic Suite facilities

- There are one or two-bedroom options available which are equipped with living area, bathroom (with shower and hairdryer), small kitchenette and/or electric kettle and TV. We would recommend taking a supply of your preferred tea and coffee to provide hot drinks during your stay
- Some of the suites have a private sauna. We can request these particular facilities for your family but can't guarantee them
- Families staying in the suites will enjoy their meals in the main restaurant, a short walk away

Supplements and minimum numbers may apply: please speak to one of our Travel Experts for a quotation

These images display a range of the different types of suites.

Please note: the hotel can usually accommodate your bed set up preference but this can't be guaranteed. Upgrades available on request

Wilderness Hotel Nellim - Cabins



Nellim offers a variety of cabins which offer varying facilities and which are mainly within easy walking distance of the hotel. Cabins are allocated on a first come, first served basis, according to the accommodation which most suits your party and availability. Specific facilities cannot be guaranteed. Our travel experts will be able to recommend the most suitable option for your family. Please note that the cabins are subject to supplement and are available on request only.

Cabin facilities

- The cabins sleep between 4 – 6 people and are configured in a variety of ways. Some feature mezzanine sleeping areas and others are single-floor and open plan with a double bed and sofa bed option
- The standard cosy cabins are studio in style and offer a double bed, pull-out sofa bed, a small kitchenette (with kettle and coffee maker – so you may want to take your favourite hot drinks), a shower room (with hair dryer), an en-suite toilet, a fireplace and a private sauna
- A large lakeside cabin can be requested for larger groups, but this is a few kilometres from the hotel and so transfers are provided for meals and activities
- Two larger log cabins situated close to the hotel are available on request, however, these require a minimum of 4 people and sleep up to 8

Supplements apply: please speak to one of our Travel Experts for a quotation

These images display a range of the different types of cabins.

Please note: the hotel can usually accommodate your bed set up preference but this can't be guaranteed. Upgrades available on request

Wilderness Hotel Nellim - Arctic Lake Villa



Brand new for the 2022/23 season are the Arctic Lake Villas. Within walking distance of the main building, approximately 50 meters, at the Wilderness Hotel Nellim, this location offers a great view of Lake Inari and the best possibility of observing the Northern Lights in the evening.

Villa facilities

- Two bedrooms, one with a double bed and the other with twin beds
- Villas has own kitchenette, living room area and bathroom
- Each Villa has its own private sauna to enjoy at your leisure
- All meals will be served in the hotel restaurant which is just a short walk from the villa

Supplements apply: please speak to one of our Travel Experts for a quotation

Please note: the hotel can usually accommodate your bed set up preference but this can't be guaranteed. Upgrades available on request.

Wilderness Hotel Nellim – Log Suite upgrade



Located between 30 – 70 metres from the main building these log suites are designed to be the highest standard of accommodation Nellim offer. The suites are approximately 33m² allowing plenty of space for families to relax in comfort. They are ideal for larger

families or for those looking to have a bit more space during their stay.

There are four suites in each of the separate log buildings offering families a high level of comfort during their stay at Nellim.

Suite facilities

- All suites have their own private sauna, electric kettle and mini-fridge to make your stay as comfortable as possible
- The suites have a double bed downstairs as part of the open plan layout and a mezzanine level above which sleeps up to three more people
- All meals will be served in the hotel restaurant which is just a short walk from the suites

Supplements apply: please speak to one of our Travel Experts for a quotation.

Please note: the hotel can usually accommodate your bed set up preference but this can't be guaranteed. Upgrades available on request.

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 28 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.

Specific Payment and Cancellation Terms for Nellim

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

If you are travelling between, and including, the dates of 13.12-06.01, the following cancellation terms apply:

- Prior to 10.09 - Loss of deposit (including the full cost of the flights or other services where paid at the time of booking)
- 11.09 up until departure date - 100%

For all other travel dates, the following cancellation terms apply:

- Up to balance due date (this is normally 16 weeks prior to departure however some holidays differ. If this applies to your holiday you will be advised at the time of booking) - Loss of deposit (including the full cost of flights or other services where paid at the time of booking)
- Between balance due date and 33 days prior to departure - 60%
- 31 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>

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