



Saariselkä - Aurora Cabins and Finding Father Christmas



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Finland

BROCHURE CODE: 1488
DURATION: 3 nights

In Brief

Set in a winter wonderland, deep in Aurora territory, the Northern Lights Village will capture the imagination of both children and adults alike. Staying in your own glass-roof Aurora cabin, with any luck you'll see the Northern Lights from your bed; but the magic doesn't stop there. You will also take part in an exciting search for Father Christmas at his cabin in the wintery forest. With a range of optional extra activities starting on site, this short break is an ideal festive escape.

Our Opinion

“ The Northern Lights Village was the perfect mix of convenience and wilderness surroundings for our family. Not only we were able to take part in incredible winter activities, but we also loved being able to stare up at the night sky from the warmth of our private cabin. The whole trip was perfect from start to finish and with the snow-covered landscape leading you to Father Christmas's house, even I felt like I was meeting a childhood hero! ”

Jono Archer



What's included?

- **Flights:** Return flights from London to Ivalo (via Helsinki). Flight routes subject to change.
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights in a glass-roofed Aurora Cabin
- **Meals:** half board
- **Activities:** Searching for Father Christmas
- Aurora alert service which you can set to alert you throughout the night or end at a specific time
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities
- 24/7 assistance from our UK based operations team and in destination support from our local partners

Trip Overview

'Winter Wonderland' is a term used frequently but you won't find a more fitting phrase for the Northern Lights Village in Finland. Sitting north of the Arctic Circle, you'll feel like you've walked through the wardrobe and into Narnia.

What's even better is the location. You're within walking distance of the resort of Saariselkä and all of its facilities, but you'll still get the full experience of a winter escape.

This short break is ideal for the festive period and what better way to get in the spirit than a meeting with Father Christmas himself. Rather than standing in a long queue to see the man in red, a friendly elf will take you, one family, at a time on a magical sleigh ride. Here, you'll search for the lights of Father Christmas's cabin and once you find it, your family will have a private meeting with him and will even receive a gift to take with you!

What makes this break extra special is the place you'll call home. Your glass-roofed accommodation is an Aurora cabin in the snow-covered wilderness, giving you incredible views of the night sky. As you'll be in Northern Lights territory, you could see the amazing light show right from your bed. Kids will love the excuse to stay up late and you won't be able to resist looking up at the sky and searching for the lights.

Saariselka itself is just 1000m away and offers lots for families as well as some excellent downhill skiing. We also offer plenty of fun-filled activities to add to your time away. This short festive break in the Northern Lights Village is a convenient, yet perfect location for you and your family to create many once-in-a-lifetime memories together.

**Interreg
Nord**

European Regional Development Fund



EUROPEAN UNION

Image credits: Eerikki Rundgren, Markku Inkila, Matt Robinson

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

FLIGHTS, ARRIVALS AND TRANSFERS

Upon arrival at the airport, your transfer will be waiting to take you directly to your Aurora accommodation in the incredible Northern Lights Village, around 25 minutes away.

Depending on your arrival time, you may want to book an evening activity for after dinner – especially now you've entered Northern Lights territory! See our '[Personalise](#)' section to choose an activity to suit your family.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

A MEETING WITH FATHER CHRISTMAS AND FREE EVENING

Following breakfast, let Father Christmas's elves lead the way as the whole family goes on an adventure to find the man himself.

You'll start by baking gingerbread (Father Christmas's favourite!) with a friendly elf before meeting some reindeer and enjoying a short sleigh ride (approx. 10 minutes).

Now you're all ready to go, it's time to begin the search. You'll travel in a cosy sleigh pulled by a snowmobile and your elf will help you look for Father Christmas's cabin deep in the forest. Watch your children's faces light up as they spot the cabin for themselves and you all enjoy a private meeting with Father Christmas – you'll even receive a small gift to take home with you! Your family will spend approximately 10 minutes with Father Christmas.

To make the visit even more personal, children can write a letter to Father Christmas in advance so that he will have it when they arrive for their meeting. He is a busy man at this time of year, but he will try to read all the letters.

Following the day's 3-hour adventure, you'll have a free evening to do as you please. You could go on one of our dedicated Northern Lights trips such as Aurora hunting by heated sleigh, found in our 'Personalise' tab.

Dinner will be served in the restaurant this evening.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
3

FREE DAY AND EVENING

After the excitement of yesterday, you'll have breakfast and then a free day to explore your surroundings as you please. Why not get to know the local wildlife with an enchanting reindeer sleigh ride, or see the wintry landscape during an exciting husky sledding experience? See our '[Personalise](#)' section for all of the activities available for your family.

After dinner, you have a free evening with your family. With such dark skies to play with, why not spend the last night in style and arrange a Northern Lights trip such as the Aurora camp by the lake.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
4

DEPARTURE

Unfortunately, it's time for your festive family short break to come to an end. If you don't have time to enjoy breakfast in the restaurant, we'll box it up for you before transferring you to the airport.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Aurora camp by the lake

Venturing out into a dark wilderness in search of the Aurora is an enticing prospect. You will travel via bus with a sense of anticipation and excitement. The hunt in itself is an experience, but the captivating landscapes are ethereal and enchanting during the night hours. Your guide will build an open fire by the shore of the frozen lake, where you can enjoy some hot drinks and snacks whilst gazing up at the night sky. Keep an eye out for flickers of colour, for if the 'Green Lady' appears then you are likely to be treated to a spectacular dance.

Duration: approximately 3 hours

Availability: Monday - Sunday at 8.30 pm (please note that the time may vary throughout the season)

Minimum age: 4 years and over

Group size: 1 - 24 approximately

Photography by Markku Inkila

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Aurora hunting by heated sleigh

A Narnia-esque winter wonderland awaits as you journey by snowmobile-pulled sleigh up into the snow-covered fells surrounding Saariselkä.

Your guide will make an open fire where you can enjoy a hot drink and snacks and listen to tales about the Aurora, before hopefully experiencing a captivating show. The lack of light pollution and the location of The Northern

Lights Village at the heart of the Aurora Zone are ideal for Auroral activity.

Duration: approximately 3 Hours

Availability: Monday - Sunday at 8:30 pm. Please note that the time may vary throughout the season.

Minimum age: 4 years and over

Group size: 1 - 24 approximately

Photography by Markku Inkila



Husky safari

A husky safari is a favourite here with everyone at Activities Abroad. The excited yelping of the dogs as the sled is been prepared is infectious and you'll doubtless find that your family are just as eager to get going. Once the dogs get down to business and you glide over the snow-covered landscapes the yelping is replaced by the gentle pattering of paws as they focus on the road ahead. It is quite surreal when you take a moment to process what you are actually doing in comparison to your daily life. Driving a team of dogs (2 people per sled) in a

Lappish wilderness is such a contrast, that is unless you happen to be a professional musher.

Duration: varies

5 km: £106 per adult, £53 per child. Available from Monday - Sunday at 11.30 am and 3.30 pm. Please note that the times may vary throughout the season. The total duration incl. briefing is approximately 1 hr. We expect you to be out on the husky sledge for around 30 minutes.

10 km: £133 per adult, £83 per child. Available Monday - Sunday at 9 am and 1 pm. Please note that the times may vary throughout the season. The total duration incl. briefing is approximately 2 hrs. We expect you to be out on the husky sledge for around 1 hour.

20 km: £183 per adult, £92 per child. Available Monday - Sunday at 10 am. Please note that the times may vary throughout the season. The total duration incl. briefing and lunch is approximately 4 hours. We expect you to be out on the husky sledge for around 2 hours.

Minimum age: 4 years and over

Group size: 1 -16 approximately

Photography by Inari-Saariselkä Tourism



Reindeer sledge ride

Reindeer are synonymous with Lapland and winter. A sleigh ride is something that will capture the imaginations of both children and adults alike. It is an experience that can be hard to comprehend until you actually do it. You generally only see such things on TV, but the reality is much more enchanting. The landscape is draped in a perfectly white blanket and the only sounds are of crunching snow. So idyllic is the landscape and so fresh is the air, that you could be forgiven for thinking you had entered some fairy-tale realm.

Duration: varies

25 minutes: £64 per adult, £32 per child. Available Monday – Sunday at 9.15 am and 12.45 pm. Please note that the times may vary throughout the season.

1.5 hours in total (1-hour sleigh ride - approximately): £119 per adult, £60 per child. Available Monday – Sunday at 2 pm. Please note that the times may vary throughout the season. The activity will last for around 1.5 hours in total

Minimum age: 4 years and over

Group size: 1 - 24 approximately

Image credits: Inari-Saariselkä Tourism Ltd

Snowmobile safari - 2 hours

This activity has been designed for those who would like to try snowmobiling but for a shorter duration.

During this two-hour excursion, you will be given expert tuition on how to handle your snowmobile and you can test your skills as you drive across the snow. Travelling two adults per snowmobile, you will stop for hot drinks along the way.

Children will enjoy the winter wonderland from the comfort of a sled.

Please note: the driver of a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving

licence. As a general rule, children (13 years and under) will travel in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile. Children 4 years and under must be accompanied in the sleigh by one parent. Older children (14 years and over) may be able to travel as pillion on the snowmobile but this is at the discretion of the guide and the child must be at least 140 cm tall. Children will pay the adult price if riding on the snowmobile.

Duration: approximately 2 hours in total

Availability: Monday – Sunday at 9 am and 1 pm. Please note that the times may vary throughout the season

Minimum age: 4 years and over

Group size: 1 - 24 approximately

Photography by Markku Inkila

Included Accommodation

Saariselkä Northern Lights Village (Nights: 1-3)



Located in the north-east of Finland, the Northern Lights Village is the latest in a long line of innovative Aurora accommodation coming out of Finland. This one is particularly clever because you spend every night in your glass-roofed Aurora Cabin rather than just one which is normally the case. Situated close to, but distinct from, the small ski town of Saariselkä, the village's outlook is that of a pristine, snow-covered wilderness which will capture the imaginations of children and adults alike. Conveniently, however, the town itself is only 1000 metres away. This means that you will find all the amenities necessary for a relaxed family holiday, yet you are still right on the doorstep of an authentic Lappish wilderness.

The Northern Lights Village offers accommodation in Aurora Cabins which are half-roofed with glass. Imagine a cosy family evening as the Aurora appears above the panoramic windows. The cabins

are unusual in that the glass is heated meaning that any view-restricting snow simply melts.

There are 80 cabins in total, all of which are within a 5-10 minutes' walk of the village's central facilities which include the restaurant where you'll enjoy breakfast and dinner. There's also the large lobby near reception for you to relax in after your meal.

Village facilities

- Enjoy wonderful family evenings as you seek out the Northern Lights from the comfort of your own cabin. The half-glass roofs are laser heated and offer unobstructed views of the northern sky. An Aurora Alert is included within each cabin.
- Visit the village of Saariselkä which has an array of shops, restaurants and cafés which are only a 20-25 minute walk from your accommodation.
- The Northern Lights Village is home to a herd of reindeer and you can watch them go about their business in the paddock.
- For all of your provided winter clothing, simply go to the onsite Safari House where overalls, gloves, boots, skis and snowshoes are stored for easy access.
- For an extra charge either for public use or booked privately, you can relax in the sauna and hot tub after your day exploring the Arctic. If you're feeling really brave, there's also the Ice Pool for you to plunge into.

Aurora Cabins

The Aurora Cabins have a half-glass roof and all face north. The design is based on the traditional wooden kotas (teepee) of Finland.

Each cabin has twin beds (which can be made into a double) and a sofa bed, suitable for an additional adult or two children. There is a shower room (with underfloor heating) and a toilet (please note that the hot water is limited in the cabins). Tea and coffee making facilities, a hairdryer and a minibar are also included.

Importantly for duvet-based Aurora hunting, a timer switch can be used to heat the glass roof should your view be obscured by snowfall. It takes approximately 5-10 minutes to melt the snow so there's no need to go out and sweep the roof in your pyjamas!

Cabins are not cleaned between arrival and departure unless requested from reception. Additionally, towels can be exchanged at reception if required.

Free Wi-Fi.

Image credits: Markku Inkila, Matt Robinson

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

This holiday requires a minimum of 2 people to run, however, on some dates we require a minimum of 8 people for our flight allocation. Maximum 30 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.

Terms and Conditions

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