



Northern Lights Village 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 (either direct or via Helsinki). Flight routes subject to change.
- **Transfers:** return group airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights in a glass-roofed Aurora Cabin
- **Meals:** Full board meals (drinks are not included)
- **Activities:** Searching for Father Christmas, 5km Husky Safari, Reindeer Sleigh Ride and Snowmobiling
- 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 small gift to take with you!

Your Lappish itinerary is complete with a husky safari and reindeer sleigh ride. You'll also have the opportunity to try your hand at snowmobiling – one of the most popular ways to travel across the Arctic wilderness.

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.

Saariselkä 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.

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: DinnerDAY
2

A MEETING WITH FATHER CHRISTMAS AND REINDEER SLEIGH RIDE

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.

The magic continues after lunch with an enchanting sleigh ride through the snow pulled by Finland's arguably most majestic creature – the reindeer. Snuggle together in the sled and enjoy this special moment with your loved ones. The sleigh ride will last approximately 25 minutes.

Why not design your ultimate holiday by including an evening chasing the Northern Lights? Visit the 'Personalise' tab to discover a range of additional activities.

Dinner will be served in the restaurant this evening.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, DinnerDAY
3

5KM HUSKY SAFARI AND 2 HOUR SNOWMOBILING

Enjoy a hearty breakfast before embarking on your next adventure. A husky safari is a favourite here with everyone at Activities Abroad. The excited yelping of the dogs as the sled is being 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!

Following lunch, prepare for a thrilling afternoon on a two hour snowmobiling 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.

After dinner, you have a free evening with your family. After dinner, you have a free evening with your family. Why not spend the last night in style and arrange a Northern Lights trip such as the Aurora camp by the lake to maximise your chances of ticking the Northern Lights off your bucket list too!

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4	DEPARTURE
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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 a 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 8pm (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



Kids' Snowmobiling

Why should it just be the grown-ups having all the fun on snowmobiles?! Let your children take the wheel (or more accurately, handlebars) during this mini snowmobiling adventure.

Riding along a 200-metre track, this is a safe environment for the little ones to try this thrilling activity and make the most of the snowy conditions.

These mini snowmobiles have been specially built for children so they'll be able to drive them with ease. In fact, it's not uncommon to see some of the younger children with better skills than most adults!

Guides will give the children instructions before they set off and then parents will supervise on the track. This is a great opportunity for children to experience this adventurous activity in a controlled way, and have a brilliant story to take back home with them!

The price includes a safety introduction from a guide and instructions on how to drive and safety equipment (including a helmet).

Please note that parents must supervise this activity and are responsible to ensure their child is following the guide's instructions safely.

Choose from a 30-minute or 60-minute session. There is no age restriction but children must be 100cm tall or above.

Prices:

30 minutes from £27 per child

60 minutes from £53 per child

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 (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 10 people for our flight allocation. Maximum 30 people (approximately). Please speak to our Family 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 - Northern Lights Villages

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

- Up to balance due date (This is normally 12 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 43 days prior to departure - 50%
- 42 to 16 days prior to departure - 80%
- 15 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