



## Brändön Lodge - Pick and Mix Christmas Getaway



**HOLIDAY TYPE:** Pick and Mix  
**VISITING:** Sweden

**BROCHURE CODE:** 1918  
**DURATION:** 3 or more nights

### In Brief

Christmas is a time for family fun and creating memories that will last a lifetime. What better way to spend your Christmas than with a journey to the frozen coast of Swedish Lapland. Your cosy winter cottage at Brändön Lodge is located in Lulea with stunning views of the pack ice of the Bay of Bothnia and your time has been left completely free for you to design your dream winter family itinerary.

### Our Opinion

“ Brändön Lodge is the perfect setting for a family Christmas holiday. The cosy winter cottages are spacious and surrounded by fluffy winter snow. They overlook the frozen Bay of Bothnia, so there is plenty of space for children to play and enjoy a real white Christmas. The lodge provides free use of equipment such as snowshoes and toboggans and they also have a fantastic range of winter activities so you can get out and explore. There is even a reindeer farm close by. What could be more festive than meeting these furry animals over Christmas? ”

Katharina Rogalski



## What's included?

- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights in a winter cottage
- **Meals:** 3 breakfasts, 3 dinners (2 courses)
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Fully qualified wilderness guides and instructors
- Free use of snowshoes and skis
- **A note on flights:** while flights are not included in the holiday price, our team will happily provide a quote and arrange them for you. Simply ask one of our Travel Experts for details of the available options
- **Please note:** if you are staying on either 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> December, a festive dinner supplement is payable

## Trip Overview

Brändön Lodge is a firm favourite with our families and this pick and mix Christmas holiday is a real gem. Located on the edge of the frozen pack ice in Swedish Lapland, Brändön offers winter cottage accommodation perfect for giving your family its own space in which to enjoy each other's company. The cottages are close to the main restaurant and all face the frozen sea, giving you a brilliant base for a Christmas break full of family experiences.

What we love most about Brändön is the welcoming atmosphere which will have your family feeling at home straight away. The Swedes are renowned for their friendliness and the owner, our good friend Göran, will make sure your family is in expert hands from start to finish.

Thanks to its fantastic location next to snow-covered forests and the shores of the frozen Bay of Bothnia, your family can enjoy a fabulous range of winter activities at Brändön. Your time has been left completely free for you to create the perfect itinerary to suit your family. The activities here are focused on shared experiences and adventure and are led by professional guides with an incredible passion for the wilderness.

You could learn how to drive a team of huskies as you mush through the forest and across

the ice, taking part in perhaps the most-loved winter activity of all. Or perhaps you want to experience the local's favourite pastime of ice fishing, which includes drilling a hole into the thick ice before waiting in anticipation for your catch. You could also hunt for the Northern Lights via snowmobile-pulled sled as you head out onto the ice, journeying from small island to small island in search of the elusive Aurora.

An amazing added bonus to your stay at Brandon Lodge is the reindeer farm directly next door. Here, the Sámi herder, Henrik Andersson, keeps several of his reindeer and you can visit them as and when you like. They are always pleased to see anybody who feeds them through the fence of their corral!

For a Lapland Christmas holiday filled winter fun, memories to treasure and tailored to suit your family, Brändön Lodge is the place to be.

**Image credits:** Brändön Lodge, Tomas Jonsson, Göran Widén, Graeme Richardson

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## Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY  
1

ARRIVAL, TRANSFER AND WELCOME

**Included Meals:** Dinner

DAYS  
2 TO 3

DESIGN YOUR OWN HOLIDAY

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY  
4

DEPART OR EXTEND YOUR STAY

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## Personalise this tour

## Our pick



### Nordic Winter Skills

Strap on snowshoes and get ready to learn about the wilderness like a real explorer. A guide will lead you on a three-hour adventure on the trails near Brändön Lodge. They will point out the tracks of animals and teach you about the fauna and flora that can be found here. Stopping along the way, you will be taught how to start a small fire and rustle up a hot drink in the outdoors. For lunch, you will sit in a native-style tent for a traditional meal cooked up over a fire. This is a wonderful way to get familiar with your surroundings.

**Duration:** 3 hours

## Other options

### ACTIVITIES



### Northern Lights Sled Tour

This is a fast and comfortable way to go looking for the Northern Lights. Sit back on warm reindeer pelts in a cosy sled as your guide pulls you along with their snowmobile. Moving out over the frozen sea, you will move between islands as you search for the Aurora above. You'll make a stop for warm drinks and snacks around an open fire, as you search the skies for the Aurora.

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Credit - Antti Pietikainen**





## Northern Lights Snowshoe Walk with Wilderness Dinner

Snowshoes make it very easy to walk in areas of deep snow. You and the children will greatly appreciate this when snowshoeing in search of the Northern Lights because they will help you get to less accessible wilderness areas where it is easier to spot the Aurora.

After walking through the snow-covered forest, your guide will prepare a fire and begin cooking your evening meal, as you discuss the science behind the Aurora and learn about the local area. Hot drinks will keep you nice and warm as you look to the skies in search of the Northern Lights.

**Duration:** 3 hours including outdoor dinner

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Credit: Markku Inkila



## Husky sledging (self-drive) 1.5-hours

Husky sledging has to be one of the most popular activities in this part of the world and a huge favourite with kids and grown-ups alike. You will be taken to a local husky farm where you will meet the excited dogs and learn how to control a sled. Following your expert guide, you will ride two people per sled, with a chance to swap drivers along the way.

This activity is 1.5 hours in duration (including transfers and preparation) and promises a great time out on the snow.

**Duration:** 1.5 hours

**Availability:** 17th Dec to 04th April 2023

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Credit: Antti Pietikainen



## Hovercraft tour on the sea ice

This is a truly unique way of getting around over the frozen sea – an experience that is only available in this part of Swedish Lapland! Journeying along, you can keep an eye out for sea eagles and seals. There should be time to stop and walk a little over the sea ice, taking in your amazing surroundings.

**Duration:** 2.5 hours

Credit Graeme Richardson



## Ice Fishing

Ice fishing is a much-loved hobby in Sweden, and taking part can be a family tradition for many. You and the children can get a feel for this pastime with this activity. You will be taken to a specially chosen fishing spot in a snowmobile-pulled sled.

Here, your guide will show you how to drill through the ice and assemble a fishing line. As you wait for a catch, you can relax with a hot drink and a sweet snack. Species that can usually be caught include perch and occasionally pike.

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Available:** 17 Dec – 04 Apr 2023 (start and end dates depends on ice conditions)



## Icebreaker

An icebreaker conjures up images of Arctic Voyages and historical expeditions and a chance to enjoy a trip should not be missed. Children, in particular, are sure to love the loud crack as your ship, 'Arctic Explorer,' cuts through the thick sheet of ice with apparent ease and the vast ocean below is revealed. You will get a real sense of adventure when the shards of ice surround the boat and the outlook is one of shimmering white.

You will take a 35-minute transfer to Luleå from your accommodation before picking up a second transfer from Luleå to Piteå, which takes approximately 50 minutes. Following an introduction and safety briefing by the ship's captain, the journey will begin in Pitsundskanalen, which is where the mouth of the river Piteälven meets the open sea. A mere 100 yards ahead of this point, the ocean opens out and there is a seemingly endless display of ice, which is easily broken by the 'Arctic Explorer'. The ship leaves a trail of exposed ocean behind and this makes it possible to bathe in the freezing water.

You will be given survival suits which will provide protection from the cold and also prevents you from getting wet. Following this, you will have the opportunity to float in the water at the rear of the ship, which is a really exciting activity (see below for age restrictions). You can also experience walking upon the thick ice of the frozen sea around the boat as it sits with a clear path behind it and solid ice in front.

The cruise will last for approximately 2 hours. A hot drink and survival suits are included.

**Please note:** although children of all ages are welcome to join the cruise, due to the availability of survival suits, swimming in the frozen sea is only available for children 7 years and older, or children above the height of 125cm.

**Child price (4-12 years):** on request

**Available:** 17 December until 04 April on a variety of days (start and end dates depends on ice conditions)

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Image credits: Graeme Richardson





## Snowmobile Forest and Nature Tour

The snow-covered forests and the frozen sea and lakes around Brändön look magical, so it is a real treat getting to explore them on snowmobiles. You will receive full instructions on how to drive the vehicles before heading off with your guide, two people per vehicle. You can also upgrade to drive one person per snowmobile. Anyone wishing to drive must be at least 18 years old and in possession of a full driving licence. Hot drinks are

included along the way.

Children will typically travel in a sled pulled by the guide's machine.

We have a two-hour tour and a longer four-hour tour which you can choose between. Stops will be made for tea and coffee along the way, with the four-hour tour also including lunch.

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Duration:** 4 hours including lunch (available from 17 December until 04 April)

## Included Accommodation

Brändön Lodge (Nights: 1-3)



Brändön Lodge is located on the edge of the frozen sea and looks out towards the ice-locked islands of the Luleå Archipelago which sit waiting for the thaw.

This is a wonderful accommodation option for families with its combination of cosy cabins, scenic surrounding wilderness and plentiful opportunities for adventure.



## Hotel facilities

- The lodge consists of a central restaurant and reception building with 15 detached cabins situated within five minutes' walk from the main building
- You will have your breakfast and evening meal in the main restaurant where you will also find the lodge reception area. Here you can take in the cosy atmosphere whilst enjoying your evening meal. The food here is typically two courses and served as a buffet in the evenings. You will get to enjoy some local foods, as well as more international dishes during your stay
- There is also a sauna and hot tub available for guests to use which is located in a separate building a short walk from the main lodge (fees apply).

## The cabins

The cabins provide the perfect family base and each consists of a living area, kitchenette, en-suite shower room, toilet and two bedrooms (both with twin beds). Each cabin also has a small porch that looks out across the frozen sea.

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Image credit: Graeme Richardson

## The Specifics

### Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum group size of 2 people and maximum 24 (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 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**