



Brändön Lodge - Pick and Mix



HOLIDAY TYPE: Pick and Mix
VISITING: Sweden

BROCHURE CODE: 1912
DURATION: 3 or more nights

In Brief

Looking over a beautiful frozen bay, Brändön Lodge is a magical place to get a taste of Swedish Lapland. Put together your very own family holiday, choosing the best winter activities from our fantastic selection. There's everything from riding husky sleds and snowmobiles to searching on snowshoes for the Northern Lights and taking a hovercraft tour over the frozen sea.

Our Opinion

“ A warm wooden lodge, splendid winter cottages, and its very own frozen bay – Brändön is a lovely, family friendly location that is perfect for a break in Swedish Lapland. Better still, you get to pick the activities yourself! I definitely recommend trying husky sledding, which is a favourite with everyone. Kids will love meeting the excited dogs, and the whole experience is simply thrilling! ”

Ali Mclean



What's included?

- **Flights:** direct return flights from London Heathrow to Lulea operate on Mondays and Fridays throughout most of the winter months. Indirect flights operate on all days of the week subject to availability (and may require a supplement). Flight routes subject to change
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers from Luleå Airport
- **Accommodation:** minimum 3 nights in winter cottage accommodation at Brändön Lodge
- **Meals:** 3 breakfasts, 3 dinners (2 courses)
- Cold-weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities
- **Please note:** a mandatory Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve dinner supplement is required if staying on 24th and/or 31st December

TAILOR YOUR TRIP

A selection of winter activities can be added to your trip at an additional cost. Once you have chosen when you want to travel and for how long (we recommend a minimum stay of three nights) you can select as many or as few activities as you wish from the extensive range on the "[Activities](#)" tab and tailor your trip as required. All activities are individually priced and our Travel Experts can assist you with your selection and will then provide a personalised itinerary quotation for you.

Trip Overview

Create the Swedish Lapland getaway in the stunning region of Lulea that your family has been dreaming of with this 'Brändön Lodge Pick and Mix' activity holiday. You will be based in a cosy winter cottage overlooking the frozen Bay of Bothnia. This is an enchanting location, with white landscapes all around! The lodge is a welcoming wooden building with a comfy lounge area and you will enjoy your meals in the lovely restaurant upstairs.

In our '[Activities](#)' tab, you can see the exciting range of outdoor fun on offer for this holiday. Choose from a selection of must-try winter activities, including snowmobiling and husky sledding through the white wilderness, learning how to ice fish like a local, riding a hovercraft to visit islands in the frozen

sea, and picking up winter skills like a real explorer. Brändön is well-placed for Northern Lights displays, so you can take a sled tour in search of the Aurora or go looking for them on snowshoes.

This is also an excellent location to have a Christmas break, or a New Year holiday – a festive getaway like no other! Both periods feature wonderful celebrations with Christmas and New Year feasts. Not that you have to visit at these specific times for a fun food experience that the whole family will enjoy. Book an Aurora Hideaway dinner and enjoy a tasty three-course meal in a cosy wooden cabin, which sits on top of the frozen sea!

Included in your holiday are transfers, half board and Arctic-grade cold-weather clothing which will be yours to keep for the duration of your stay and expert guides leading the way on all activities.

Simply decide when you want to travel and for how long (we recommend a minimum stay of three nights) then match your stay to the activities listed in the 'Activities' tab. Please note that all accommodation and activities are subject to availability at the time of booking.

We are also offering the chance to extend your stay and visit the world-famous ICEHOTEL® in Kiruna. This is done by a scenic train journey even further north into Swedish Lapland before being transferred to The ICEHOTEL® for a tour and an overnight stay in either the warm or cold accommodation on offer there.

Please note: Activity schedules are subject to change. Duration of activity includes transfer times and breaks, and all distances are approximate. Some activities require a minimum number of participants to operate and are subject to availability.

Husky safaris: All decisions are made on the day of the safari by the lead guide as to any guest's suitability to drive their own sledge. As a general rule, those aged 15 and over are normally able to drive their own team of huskies but the guide's decision on the day will be final. On certain safaris, children under the age of 15 will either travel in a sledge driven by the guide or an accompanying adult. There is also the option to enjoy a shorter safari on a sled for 4-5 people, which will be driven by an expert guide.

Snowmobile safaris: The driver of a snowmobile must be 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence. Children will travel in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile on selected safaris where this is offered, older children may be able to travel as pillion on the snowmobile (supplements may apply) but this is at the discretion of the guide.

Single snowmobiles: All snowmobile safaris are based on two people sharing. If this is not possible in your party then you will be paired with someone else taking part in the activity. If you wish to guarantee your own snowmobile you must pay the single supplement - please ask our Travel Experts for a quotation.

Interreg
Nord

European Regional Development Fund



EUROPEAN UNION

Image credits: Tomas Jönsson, Graeme Richardson

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



Aurora Hideaway Dinner

If you'd like to experience an extra-special night on the sea ice, this is the perfect evening activity.

You'll be taken by snowmobile-pulled sleigh into the wilds and across the frozen sea ice, towards the glowing cabin in the distance. This is no ordinary cabin, however, as it is moved around the archipelago on skis, pulled by a snowcat. This means that it can be put in the best possible location for Aurora hunting, based on the day's wind, weather and ice conditions.

Nestled inside, the log-burning stove will keep you nice and warm as your guide prepares a three-

course dinner for you on the fire outside. You will be served a drink of your choice on arrival (either wine, beer or a hot drink, and any further drinks can be added to your room bill to be paid at checkout). The first course will be a delicious, hot soup, followed by a main course and dessert.

Between courses, be sure to pop outside and search the skies for the Northern Lights. There will also be snowshoes available for you to use, if you'd like to go for a short walk close to the cabin, as your next course is prepared.

Duration: 3 hours (approximately)

Available: from 17th December until 4th April 2023

Credit Graeme Richardson

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Husky sledding (self-drive) 1.5-hours

Husky sledding 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

Credit: Antti Pietikainen



Sámi reindeer experience

Your family holiday to Lapland wouldn't be complete without seeing some reindeer and during this experience, you'll get to meet and feed the animals as well as gain an authentic insight into their cultural significance.

Starting at Brändön Lodge, you will meet with Henrik Andersson, a local Sámi man who knows all about reindeer. Together, you will enjoy a short walk to the enclosure as Henrik tells you about his culture and way of life, as well as the life of these wonderful animals.

You will meet the reindeer who will then join you in a walk into the forest towards a Sámi tent where you can enjoy a hot drink around an open fire.

You can talk more with Henrik about life in the Arctic as lunch is prepared over the fire using fresh and traditional ingredients.

Duration 2.5 hours starting at 10 am

Available: 17th December to 04th April 2023



Full-Day Dog Sledding Self-Drive

This tour is for adults only, so if you fancy something more active, then this full-day dog sledding tour certainly offers that.

You'll transfer to a husky farm, approximately 1 hour away, where you will be given expert guidance and tuition on how to control your team of dogs and how to drive the sled. You'll ride two people per sled, with

several chances to swap drivers along the way, travelling through snow-covered forests and frozen lakes.

The tour involves approximately 4 hours of dog sledding, with breaks along the way, covering between 30-50km, depending on conditions. The tour also includes a wilderness lunch, cooked over an open fire and you will also get to spend some time with the dogs during and after the tour; a great photo opportunity!

Please note that the price does not include the cost of the transfer – please speak to one of our Travel Experts for a full quotation.

Duration: 6 hours in total (including transfers), approximately 4 hours of dog sledding (including lunch break)

Available: from 17th December until 4th April 2023

Credit Graeme Richardson



Cross-Country Skiing

Have some family fun in the snow as you learn how to travel across the frozen wilderness just like the locals do! During this cross-country skiing activity, you'll explore the winter wonderland surroundings of Brändön Lodge and get a real back-to-nature experience of the Lappish landscape.

Your local guide will teach you all the techniques needed to use the cross-country ski equipment. Then, once you are fitted with your skis, you and your family will follow

your guide along the snowy trails.

The weather and snow conditions will determine which route you will take - either along the solid-frozen sea, through the enchanting forest or gliding across the specially-carved snowmobile tracks. You will also stop to warm up with hot drinks along the way and enjoy the peaceful surroundings.

Duration: 2 hours

Suitable for: aged 7 years and older

Credit Quinten Elpers



Christmas Eve Decorations and Snow Fun

For a fun-filled family activity on Christmas Eve, look no further than this! At breakfast, each family will be given a big Christmas box, filled with all sorts of goodies to keep your family entertained today.

Inside the box there is a treasure map, some small gifts and an assortment of tools. The aim of the day is to see which family can create the best winter wonderland snow

scene outside of their cabin. Think Christmas trees, snow sculptures, snow lanterns and any other festive fun you can come up with! The guides will help you and your family hunt for clues and treasure to help with your Christmas creations, as well as providing hints and tips on how best to build in the snow. A roaring campfire will be going throughout the day, so that your family can enjoy hot drinks and snacks in between decorating.

During your Christmas Eve dinner, awards will be given out in different categories and children will get a small present. This activity gives you and your family the chance to really enjoy your winter

surroundings to make this a truly White Christmas like no other.



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)

Image credits: 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)



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 including lunch

Availability: 17 Dec – 04 Apr 2023 (start and end dates depend on ice conditions)

Credit Graeme Richardson



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

Credit: Markku Inkila



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



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)



Snowmobile tour to the Luleå Archipelago Pack Ice

This is an exciting adventure that takes you around the islands of the Luleå Archipelago. You will have a full briefing on how to use the snowmobiles before following your guide into the beautiful landscape. You will travel two people per snowmobile with the chance to swap the roles of driver and passenger; you can also upgrade to

driving one person per vehicle for an uninterrupted thrill. Anyone wishing to drive a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and in possession of a full driving licence.

If conditions are favourable, your destination will be the island of Brändöskär, with its quiet fishing village surrounded by stretches of incredible pack ice and snow. Along the way, you will stop for hot drinks and lunch will be cooked over an open fire, and you will snowmobile back to Brändön Lodge.

Duration: 4 hours including lunch

Available: from 08 January until 04 April 2023



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



Arctic Astronomy

After an early dinner at Brändön Lodge, you will have a short transfer to the nearby home of Ulf Jonsson, an amateur consultant of aviation, space and photography who has built his own small, but fantastic, observatory.

Ulf will take you through the range of binoculars and telescopes on offer. Then, the roll-away roof will reveal the night sky and you'll get a brilliant view of the wonders overhead.

Ulf will point out constellations and explain how different cultures perceive the stars. If the moon is visible, you can track along the surface to observe the craters and mountain ranges. Of course, the real highlight in this part of the world is the Northern Lights and if conditions are favourable, you may get one of the most detailed views of this wonder. Should the Auroras appear, Ulf will also help you with your camera settings to capture this special moment.

Duration: 3 hours, including transfers

Available: from 17th December until 04th April 2023

Credit Juo Foto

EXTENSIONS



The Treehotel

The Treehotel is a magical and fantastic place to see. We can arrange for your family to spend the night amidst the treetops of Swedish Lapland in one of the most inventive bedrooms on the planet. It is an experience, unlike any other and one that we don't feel that you should miss. Each of the seven architect-designed rooms is cutting edge.

The bedroom options include The UFO, Mirror Cube, Bird's Nest, Blue Cone, The Cabin, Dragonfly and 7th Room. Each room is spectacular in its own right and totally unique and no matter which option you choose you will experience an unforgettable night.

Your stay includes lunch, dinner and breakfast at Britta's Guesthouse which is approximately a 10-minute walk from the tree rooms. This is a characterful and quirky place to dine, in contrast with the ultra-modern Treehotel, with old-world charm and hearty home cooking.

This is exclusive accommodation as there are only seven rooms, so we recommend booking as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Some of the rooms are unsuitable for small children, so please speak to our Travel Experts for advice on which options would suit you best.

In the morning after your breakfast, your transfers will be arranged to take you back to the airport for your return flights home.

Please contact us for a full quotation based on your transfer and family's requirements.

Availability: 17th Dec – 04th Apr 2022

Image credit: Graeme Richardson



Extension to The ICEHOTEL®

Why not look at exploring another part of Swedish Lapland and also visit the stunning ICEHOTEL® located just outside the small town of Kiruna. You will travel north by train (which normally takes around three hours) enjoying the beautiful winter scenery from the train until you are picked up at the station for a very short transfer to the ICEHOTEL® itself. A guided tour is included in your stay and we can arrange a night in either the warm

hotel style rooms or, for a truly memorable experience, you can spend the night in a room constructed completely from snow and ice. Please speak to one of our Travel Experts for more information and a tailored quotation to suit your family.

LITTLE EXTRAS



Cross-Country Ski Hire

If you'd like to have a go at independently exploring the tracks as a family and at your own pace, then this is a fantastic way to spend some free time. You should speak to the lodge to discuss routes and trail conditions before you leave. Please ensure that you take the hotel number and your mobile phone with you and leave details of your route before departure.

Duration: 1.5, 3 and 6-hour rentals are available

Available: from 17th December until 4th April 2023

Prices:

1.5 hours - £17 per person

3 hours - £29 per person

6 hours - £41 per person

Image credit: Quinten Elpers



Fatbike Hire

Fat bikes offer a great way to explore further than you may get with cross-country skis or snowshoes, whilst still being able to appreciate the peace and quiet of this winter wonderland. The fat bikes have extra-wide tyres, which provide far better grip than a traditional bike would get in the snow. This activity is not guided and therefore you must speak to the team at reception to discuss routes and conditions before you set off. Helmets will be provided.

Please ensure that you take the lodge number and your mobile phone with you and leave details of your route before departure.

Duration: 1.5, 3 and 6-hour rentals are available

Available: from 17th December until 4th April 2023

Prices:

1.5 hours - £25 per person

3 hours - £41 per person

6 hours - £66 per person

Credit Quinten Elpers



Snowshoe Hire

Hire snowshoes to explore the trails independently as a family and at your own pace. This is a great way to spend some free time enjoying the peace and quiet of your wintery surroundings. You should always consult the lodge regarding trail conditions, maps and the weather before you leave.

Ensure you take the lodge number and your mobile phone with you and leave details of your route before departure.

Duration: 1.5, 3 and 6-hour rentals are available

Available: from 17th December until 4th April 2022

Prices:

1.5 hours - £17 per person

3 hours - £29 per person

6 hours - £41 per person



Hot tub and sauna

During your stay at Brändön Lodge, you will have the option to relax in the hot tub and sauna. Both are just a short walk from the lodge and they sit on the edge of the frozen sea.

Saunas are an absolute must when you are in Sweden and they are ideal for relaxing and restoring any tired muscles after a day's adventure.

The hot tub is an added bonus to sit back and enjoy the location. Both of them are rented for private use together, so if you would like to include them, please speak to one of our Travel Experts who will be happy to provide you with a full quotation.

Available: 17th December - 04th April, Monday to Sunday

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.

Image credit: Graeme Richardson

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 25 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>